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Pictures of Diana in bikini shock Britons

LONDON, Feb. 18 (AP) — Pictures of bikini-clad and five-months-pregnant Princess Diana splashed across the front pages of two London newspapers Thursday, outraging Buckingham Palace. "This is the worst sort of peeping-tomism," said Michael Shea, press secretary to Queen Elizabeth II.

The pictures appearing in Murdoch's tabloid *Sun* and in the rival *Daily Star* were telephoto lens shots of the 20-year-old princess and her husband, 33-year-old heir to the throne Prince Charles, splashing in the surf on the island of Windermere, off Eleuthera in the Bahamas, after their arrival for a 10-day vacation.

Diana is expecting their first child in June. "Such tasteless behavior is in breach of normally accepted British press standards in respect of the privacy of individuals, and I have informed the editors of my view," said Shea.

He indicated that the queen — who had urged newspaper editors at a Dec. 8 meeting to respect the privacy of the young princess — considered the pictures in the worst possible taste.

Said Shea: "It is apparent that these were taken without the prince and princess being aware of this being done."

He said the palace switchboard had been jammed by callers upset by the pictures. "We have had many, many calls from the public saying how shocked and disgusted they are with the pictures. We have also had support from other editors," he said.

Shea said the royal couple would be "very, very upset" when told what had happened.

He refuted a statement in the *Daily Star* which claimed it had notified the palace it would be photographing the couple on their island retreat and no objection was raised.

Shea said the newspaper had indicated a reporter was going to the Bahamas to write "some background pieces."

"Otherwise the editor, Lloyd Tueroer, said that he would continue to respect the prince and princess's privacy. There was no mention of photography in the conversation, and any suggestion that Buckingham Palace would raise no objections to such photographs being taken is totally without foundation," Shea said.

Only last week, Prince Charles praised the press for restraint shown to his pregnant wife following the queen's plea to newspaper editors. The queen complained that former kindergarten teacher Diana, who married Prince Charles at St. Paul's cathedral last July 29, was experiencing "great strain" because of constant attention from photographers.

(Continued on back page)



GETTING ALONG FAMOUSLY: This little girl, named Tracy, seems to be saying, 'Hello, Duck,' to her new found friend. According to Tracy's parents the two babies get along quite well together.

Women's fertility drops after 30 — study

BOSTON, Feb. 18 (AP) — A French study says that women are significantly less able to become pregnant after they reach age 30, a discovery that may be important to the growing number of women who postpone childbirth while they establish careers.

The study found that the ability to conceive drops sharply between age 31 and 35 declines further during the late 30s.

Until now, many researchers believed that fertility remained high until age 35. Although doctors have long suspected that women older than 35 have more trouble getting pregnant, this is the first major study to find clear evidence of this change.

The study was done by a French sperm bank organization called the Federation des Centres d'Etude et de Conservation du Sperme Humain. Results were published in Thursday's issue of the *New England Journal of Medicine*.

In a review of 2,193 women, the doctors measured fecundity, or the capacity for becoming pregnant. All the women had sterile husbands, and they received artificial insemination for a year at 11 French fertility centers.

The women in their 20s were the most fertile. Seventy-three percent of those under

25 became pregnant with the artificial insemination, as did 74 percent of the women between the ages of 26 and 30.

However, in the 31-to-35 age group, only 62 percent became pregnant, and the rate was 54 percent for those over 35.

Ordinarily, 80 percent of all women become pregnant within the first six months of trying, other researchers have said.

U.S. statistics say 8 percent of first-time mothers were 30 or older in 1979, compared with 6.8 percent in 1960. Increasingly, women are delaying pregnancy during their 20s while they build careers. Many intend to have babies while in their 30s.

In an accompanying editorial, Drs. Alan H. DeCherney and Gertrud S. Berkowitz of Yale Medical School say that because of the latest study, people may want to reconsider this trend.

"Perhaps the third decade should be devoted to childbearing and the fourth to career development, rather than the converse, which is true for many women today," they wrote. "Although this might mean restructuring educational and training programs and the labor market, it might be the best way to ensure that women who desire to have both a family and a career are able to do so."

The reviewers said the French statistics were discouraging, but they emphasized that more than half of the over-30 women were able to conceive, and the success rate may be higher if the couples can rely on natural insemination rather than artificial means.

The French doctors did not speculate about why the older women have more trouble getting pregnant. However, the editorial said some of the change is probably due to gynecologic diseases, such as endometriosis — the growth of tissue from the inner lining of the uterus in abnormal places, such as the uterine wall and the ovaries.

France halts arms shipment to Chad

PARIS, Feb. 18 (AP) — France has decided to interrupt arms shipments to the strife-plagued North African nation of Chad, official sources said Thursday. The sources added the decision was taken following a meeting of the Organization of African Unity in Nairobi, Kenya, last week. The OAU has sent peacekeeping troops to Chad in an effort to halt the country's Civil War and has called for a ceasefire on Feb. 25.

Hama siege continues Blast damages Syrian ministry

DAMASCUS, Feb. 18 (AP) — Braving a hail of police fire, a suicide opponent drove a bomb-laden truck to within a few yards of Syria's Information Ministry and detonated his deadly load at midday Thursday. Eyewitnesses reported 12 ministry employees were injured and the 10-story building was heavily damaged.

The witnesses, who asked not to be identified by name, said the identity of the "human torpedo" could not be established because only a leg could be recovered from his blown up body.

Interviews with several witnesses who fled the scene of the blast produced this reconstruction:

The human torpedo, driving a Honda truck disguised as a newspaper delivery van, drove in the direction of the ministry's basement garage. But police guards ordered the truck to stop for inspections. He sped through the checkpoint and police guards opened up with their machine guns. The opponent was within a few yards from the ministry building and about 15-to-18 yards from the main Damascus-Mazza Highway when he set off the explosive charge estimated at 200 kilograms.

"The position of the car bomb between the highway and the ministry entrance accounted for the low toll," one eyewitness said. "Had he been closer to the ministry or to the

noon-hour rush on the highway, it would have been a bloodbath."

Michael Frenchman, a former London Times special editor who was meeting with Deputy Information Minister Zuhair Jenaan when the blast occurred, told reporters afterward the inside of the building was "completely devastated."

"We were discussing how quiet and peaceful Damascus is when the building was rocked by an explosion," said Frenchman, who arrived at his downtown Meridien Hotel with a torn shirt and covered with dust. "Several persons were in the room and we were all flung to the ground."

Frenchman said he saw ministry employees with slight injuries as he ran down the stairs from the 10th floor, "but I saw no dead although I saw a lot of blood." A thick pall of black smoke rose over the building after the explosion, for which no group has claimed responsibility.

Government sources refused to release information or comment on the blast before the issue of an official statement.

The blocked Damascus-Mazza Highway was reopened to traffic three hours after the explosion but heavily armed security guards ringed the buildings as repair works and cleaning were under way. The bombing occurred as Syrian troops and tanks besieged the cent-

(Continued on back page)

Sale of F-4s by U.S. Egypt said taken for a ride

WASHINGTON, Feb. 18 (AP) — The United States has approved sales of the F-4 Phantom II fighter aircraft to Egypt for the wrong reasons, congressional auditors said Wednesday.

The General Accounting Office said 35 F-4 fighters and 15 CH-47 helicopters were sold to the Egyptians, "more for political reasons than for military value." In a report to the Senate Foreign Relations Committee, the GAO said Egypt does not have the trained personnel or the supply system to keep up the F-4s, which are so hard to maintain that even the U.S. Air Force is able to keep only 65 percent of them in flying condition at one time.

The report deleted for security reasons the percentage of scheduled training sorties that the Egyptian Air Force has been able to make, but it was evidently low. At one point, for instance, the report said that "only a percentage" of the Egyptian F-4 fleet can be kept operational.

The GAO said the \$505-million F-4 sale was reportedly agreed upon by former President Jimmy Carter and the late Egyptian President Anwar Sadat as "an important factor" in the Egyptian-Israeli Peace Treaty of 1979.

The agency quoted U.S. officials as saying the F-4s "were a valuable symbol to Egypt because this was the type of aircraft used by the Israelis in the 1973 war." But the GAO recommended that the state and defense departments get together with the Egyptian government to set up a consulting group that "would aim at eliminating or minimizing weapons purchases serving mainly political purposes."

GAO auditors added, "Many defense and state department officials we spoke with agreed that the F-4 was not a good aircraft for Egypt to have. It is very complex, difficult to maintain, and has thousands of spare parts." The auditors said the F-5 is much simpler to fly and maintain, and even the more sophisticated F-16 requires less maintenance than the F-4.

The report said the CH-47, a medium-lift cargo helicopter, was a low priority item on Egypt's list of wanted equipment after the Camp David agreement, and later disappeared from the list altogether.

In late 1980, the United States approved use of U.S. credits by Egypt to buy the helicopters from an Italian firm that had intended

(Continued on back page)

(EDITOR'S NOTE: The writer is director of energy and technological studies for the Hudson Institute, a think tank based in New York State.)

By William M. Brown

WASHINGTON, Feb. 18 (WP) — The price of oil is likely to drop dramatically in the coming years — and we may have to prevent that from happening.

Why on earth keep up the price of oil, a source of inflation, of joblessness, of weakened U.S. industries, debt-ridden U.S. customers abroad, declining American influence in the world and much else?

Because, on balance, the threat to national security and to the U.S. and international economy might well be more severe if we have a wild swing between high and low prices, as is likely in the years ahead. We have, of course, already begun the price decline part of the swing. OPEC's latest "unified" \$34-a-barrel benchmark price was a last-gasp attempt to support slipping oil prices that trimmed the wings of some high-flyers like Libya, which had been charging over \$40 a barrel.

OPEC has agreed to that \$34 price at least until the end of this year. Because of inflation, that means a 10 percent real price cut by January. On top of that, some OPEC countries have started offering discounts in order to increase their share of a declining export market. The price for "residual" — the oil that fires industrial boilers — has been dropping since June. Prices of home heating oil in the United States have dropped more than 25 percent in the past few months despite the coldest winter in memory.

The spot market for crude has been running up to \$3 a barrel below contract prices — and there are still few takers. Gasoline prices here are dropping, refineries are up to their ears in fuels that are moving slowly. As a result, some oil stocks on Wall Street have dropped by more than half in the past year alone.

The stage has been set for international oil prices to go into a spin — not a temporary fluctuation over a couple of months, but increased supplies and falling demand that should persist for years. The result is that OPEC's worst nightmare could come true: a price collapse, a drop of more than 50 percent before the end of 1985, perhaps

Wild oil price oscillations portend grave consequences

much sooner. This could happen partly because prices will not be adjusted to inflation and partly through actual price cuts and discounts. In this way, prices could drop to as low as \$15 a barrel in today's dollars. In the best tradition of Reaganomics, consider supply-side questions first.

One reason the United States wants to maintain good relations with Saudi Arabia is that it is the only country in the oil world that can dramatically increase its output to keep prices more or less stable during an emergency. An example of their value to the industrial world came in 1979-80, when oil prices increased 150 percent, to \$36 a barrel or more, in the wake of the Iranian revolution. "Radical" states like Libya wanted to jack up the price of oil to whatever the market would bear. But that policy is not in the long-term interest of Saudi Arabia.

So what did the Kingdom do as the price of oil skyrocketed last time? It increased its output from the usual 8.5 million barrels a day to 10.5 million barrels. The additional 2 million barrels helped create stability in the market that buyers could refuse to pay the higher prices the "radical" producers were trying to charge.

Soon you saw news stories that had one oil company after another curtailing operations in Libya. Col. Muammar Qaddafi's prices were too high in the face of the growing glut. With much grumbling, the high-priced producers last year agreed to the relatively low Saudi Arabian "benchmark" price of \$34 a barrel. In exchange, the Kingdom agreed to drop back to its normal 8.5-million-barrel-a-day production.

But as it turned out, it was not enough for Saudi Arabia to keep its side of the bargain. Its production right now is below normal, at 8 million barrels, and the glut hasn't even diminished. The trouble is that OPEC is still capable of exporting 24 million barrels of oil a day, but demand has declined to less than 19 million barrels. The result is millions of barrels per day excess capacity. That excess is likely to become even larger in the future.

And on top of that, there seems to be

some question whether the glut could be ended later in this decade even if production is reduced.

Europe's North Sea production is slated to increase by at least 1.5 million barrels a day. Mexico's production is expected to increase by something like 3 to 5 million barrels. If Iran and Iraq decided not to decide anything in their war and just declared a ceasefire, their combined production would be likely to increase by 4 million barrels. If they should declare peace, the increase by 1990 could be as much as 6 million barrels. Who would mop up a glut like that?

On the demand side, meanwhile, a persuasive argument can be made that structural changes are now occurring in every major energy-consuming sector of the industrialized countries. Not only has it become unthinkable to build a new oil-fired electrical generator, for example, but old ones are being converted to coal and new ones are being taken at hydroelectric and nuclear power. Long-term plans to reduce dependence on oil are ubiquitous in industry, housing, commerce and transportation.

Furthermore, there are reasons to think that these sectors will continue to restrain their use of petroleum. And it is unlikely that their consumption will be affected significantly by declining oil prices. This is an important point. It implies that the demand for oil is likely to fall substantially if prices rise, but will not increase very much, if at all, if prices should decline. Major industrial capital investments require a 20- or 30-year perspective on prices. Such oil consumers have been fooled twice by unexpected large price hikes and are unlikely to subject themselves to a potential third blow.

The new energy consciousness is not reversible. Innovations will lead to spectacular progress both in supply and demand. The sum of these trends should lead to a substantial reduction in the world's dependence on OPEC in the 1980s.

As production capacity increases and demand decreases, we can anticipate attempts by some of the oil-exporting countries to keep their former share of a decreasing oil-consumption pie by pumping more than

ever. This, of course, will only exacerbate the oil glut, increase the downward pressure on prices and probably create conditions for an even steeper decline in the years ahead — perhaps even to a surprisingly deep and prolonged collapse of international oil prices.

There is an important caveat to this forecast: it presumes that there will not be a truly cataclysmic interruption of oil supplies from the Gulf area in the next years.

A significant drop in the cost of oil imports would provide some economic as well as psychological rewards. But what if, as those prices fell, it only led to a tighter long-term U.S. dependence on what soon be viewed as "cheap, sensible," Middle Eastern oil?

Because major investments today have to appear to continue to make sense in the 21st century, I do not expect a price decline to have very much of an effect on demand. However in the long run, as the planet is depleting its low-cost conventional oil, prices presumably will have to head back up at some point — perhaps in 10 years or so. What, then, if a price decline in the '80s ends up having significant impact on the availability of oil and gas supplies in the 1990s?

Indeed, there is abundant evidence that oil exploration and development have already decelerated sharply in the United States as a result of softening prices. Proposed synthetic fuel projects are being abandoned left and right. Even the interest in alternatives like solar power or geothermal is weakening because they are often not economic unless the price of oil continues to rise.

While these projects would not have had much of a near-term impact on supplies, their larger potential contributions in the 1990s and beyond might be seriously degraded by a prolonged decline of oil prices in the 1980s. What it boils down to is if we want to develop the technologies that would free us once and for all from imported oil, we've got to keep the price up. If we want continued progress in the transition to secure, nonpolluting, renewable resources, the best way is to slap an import tax on imported oil before it's too late.

If the price of oil really starts to drop, you could expect pressures to keep the price up from the following groups with special interests to protect. You have to realize that, as painful as it was for some groups to adjust to constantly rising prices, it would be painful for these to adjust to decreases.

Those who would feel the pain include:

- The oil and gas producers, who obviously prefer the higher prices, and who could not justify increasingly exotic North American frontier exploration and development without them.
- The U.S. providers of oil rigs, pipelines and other oil service industries, who have geared up heavily for the recent rapid growth of exploration and development.
- The alternative energy industries, from the makers of wood-burning stoves to solar hot-water heaters, whose existence has been dependent on the expectation that high energy prices would persist.
- The energy conservation enterprises, from the makers of storm windows to weatherstripping to fiberglass insulation, whose phenomenal rapid growth has contributed greatly to the present glut.
- The U.S. auto industry, which has committed an unprecedented \$50 billion to retrofitting to produce small, energy-efficient cars, and which might find public preferences returning to large, luxurious models the means of production of which have been thrown away.
- And most important, because most powerful, the U.S., Canadian, British and other governments of the industrialized countries, who have come to depend heavily on revenues from several kinds of taxes on high-priced petroleum and who would face even more enormous government deficits if these taxes were not to materialize.

Needless to say, end-use consumers prefer lower prices and would undoubtedly fight against deliberate attempts to keep the price of oil up. But in my judgment, given the array of economic and national security forces arrayed against them, they are unlikely to prevail. Thus the question becomes not whether we impose a tax to keep prices up, but where and how much.

One alternative is a flexible tariff wall against lower-priced imported crude. By this means, internal prices for petroleum can be kept at, say \$30-35 per barrel in early 1982 dollars, no matter how much OPEC's prices should fall. This would not only keep windfall profits taxes intact on domestic production, it would provide a brand new revenue source for an increasingly budget-bedecked U.S. government. The major political problem with that is that it would not only maintain windfall profits taxes for the government, but windfall profits for the domestic oil companies, which would not be popular.

The other way to go is a direct tax on finished fuels, like a 50-cent-a-gallon tax on gasoline, rather than crude. The problem with this is that it does not increase our energy self-sufficiency because it doesn't offer an incentive to the energy companies to exploit our domestic resources. On top of that, the energy-producing states would scream.

Because changing oil prices can redistribute tens of billions of dollars annually in the United States alone, there can be no simple solution to these political problems.

Governments rapidly feel pressures to resist any sharp changes, whether they are rising or falling prices. The turbulence that results from such swings affects overall prosperity and trade negatively on a worldwide basis. Economic prosperity is fostered by stability, not wild swings in either direction. Yet, the outlook is for unstable oil prices for a long time to come. If, as I expect, the soaring oil prices of the 1970s are followed, by rapidly-declining prices in the 1980s, by rapidly-declining prices in the 1980s, the stage for skyrocketing price rises again.

On each leg of the price oscillation, whether up or down, governments are pressed to take strong measures to resist the change. The consequences of their actions may create as many problems as they solve. At least that conclusion seems warranted from their past behavior.

Still, it's unlikely that we should stand by and do nothing as we watch our energy prices, any more than we should stand by and do nothing as they rise. It is important to keep the price of oil reasonably stable at an appropriate level. Will we have the wisdom to recognize it and respond intelligently?

Saudia's international network to expand soon

By Sir Sidahmad
London Bureau

LONDON, Feb. 18 — Saudia, the national carrier, will expand its international network in June to cover Singapore, Islamabad, Seoul, Nice and Malacca, according to its director general, Capt. Ahmad Mattar. Saudia currently serves 39 destinations in its international network.

Mattar, who was speaking at a press conference Wednesday, said that Saudia will maintain its policy to improve domestic service at the 24 airports it uses in the Kingdom. The improvement is envisioned through increased number of flights, use of larger aircraft and introduction of modern equipment.

The increase in ticket prices on domestic flights introduced last year led to a drop in the volume of internal travel by 15 percent. Ticket prices were increased by 70 percent. "We were expecting more, but what happened helped to control the percentage of increase in the operation of Saudia," Mattar said. Last year's increase reached 26 percent whereas the year before it approached 60 percent. The current policy is to keep the annual growth between 25 and 30 percent, he said.

Riyadh, Paris sign tax accord

Arab News Correspondent

PARIS, Feb. 18 — Saudi Arabia and France have signed an agreement to avoid duplication of taxes to nationals of the two countries. The agreement was signed here Wednesday by Finance and National Economy Minister Sheikh Muhammad Abu Al-Khail and French Economy Minister Jacques Delors.

A ceremony held at the French Economy Ministry, on the occasion of signing the agreement, was attended by the French Treasury Minister; Sheikh Abdul Aziz Nasrullah, undersecretary for finance and national economy, and the Saudi Arabian ambassador to Paris.

Delors later gave a luncheon party in honor of Abu Al-Khail, which was attended by leading Arab and French personalities.

The agreement provides for facilitating tax income and profit problems to nationals of the two countries.

Keeping pace with the economic boom in the Kingdom, Saudia had reduced its domestic ticket prices by 25 percent to facilitate means of transport. This action was maintained for five years until its cancellation last year, he said.

Mattar also said that Saudia was affected by the global depression in the international travel equally as other airlines. One of the noticeable implications of the depressed market is the illegal reductions on tickets given by certain parties.

To cope with such a trend, Saudia concluded agreements with several non-Arab airline companies to disallow such practices. Principal agreement in this regard also has been reached with 18 Arab airlines, Mattar said. But for Asian airlines, relations are governed by bilateral agreements, he added.

He denied any plans to introduce concord flights in cooperation with British Airways. "Such speeds are not among our priorities," he said. Mattar also denied having a program to operate joint flights by Arab airlines to the United States.

Saudia, founded in 1945, transported last year 9.5 million passengers among its 63 destinations inside and outside the Kingdom. The airline is in the midst of its five-year plan which ends in 1984 by spending SR6 billion. Then, Saudia will have a fleet of 86 aircraft serving 3,600 passengers every hour, Mattar said.

U.S. envoy flies home

Washington Bureau

WASHINGTON, Feb. 18 — Richard Murphy, U.S. ambassador to Saudi Arabia, arrived in Washington this week for consultations with Reagan administration officials.

An informed State Department source said that Murphy comes to the United States "for the kind of consultations he didn't have a chance to have when he first went to Saudi Arabia."

Murphy replaced former U.S. Ambassador Robert Neumann in the Kingdom last August. Neumann resigned from the position due to "personal reasons." But it was widely speculated at the time that he quit over policy differences with the U.S. administration. Neumann was said to be urging stronger ties between the two countries.

Fahd to give Faisal prizes

RIYADH, Feb. 18 — Crown Prince Fahd will deputize for King Khaled at the King Faisal International Prize distribution ceremony to be held here March 1, according to *Al-Riyadh*, Thursday.

The awards include King Faisal International Prize for Service to Islam, won this year by Sheikh Abdul Aziz ibn Abdullah ibn Baz; K.F.I.P. for Islamic Studies, given to Dr. Muhammad Najatullah Siddiqui; K.F.I.P. for Arabic Literature, conferred on Dr. Nasseruddin Al-Assad; and K.F.I.P. for Medicine, awarded to Dr. Davides Morolli.

Prince Khaled Al-Faisal, director general of King Faisal Philanthropic Foundation and president of the prize distribution committee, will address the gathering. Subjects for the next year's prizes will be announced during the function.

Youth welfare chief winds up tour

RIYADH, Feb. 18 (SPA) — Prince Faisal ibn Fahd, general president of Youth Welfare, arrived here from Abu Dhabi Thursday, after a four-day tour of Kuwait and the United Arab Emirates.

Early Thursday, Prince Faisal met in Abu Dhabi with the minister of state for internal affairs, Hammoudah Ali. The meeting, which was attended by UAE Education and Youth Minister Saeed Salman and Saudi Arabian Ambassador to UAE Sheikh Saleh Sulaiman Al-Fozan, discussed preparations for the sixth Arab Gulf Football Tournament scheduled to be opened in the UAE capital next month. The prince held talks with state officials on possible ways of boosting existing cooperation in the field of youth and sports activities.

During his visit to Kuwait, Prince Faisal attended a function organized by the Kuwaiti Olympic Committee, to celebrate the inclusion of Sheikh Fahd Al-Ahmad as member of the International Committee.

Meanwhile, it was announced here Thursday that Prince Faisal has donated \$5,000, value of the prize to be awarded by the International Physical and Athletic Training Federation for the best research work on the "promotion of physical and athletic training in the Arab world."

DAMMAM (SPA) — Governor of the Eastern Province Prince Abdul Mohsen ibn Jiluwi opened the Gulf basketball festival for youngsters at the sports stadium here Thursday. Participants in the two-day rally, organized by the Gulf Basketball Federation, represent Saudi Arabia, Iraq, Kuwait, Bahrain, Qatar and the United Arab Emirates.

JEDDAH (SPA) — The Islamic Development Bank Thursday signed an agreement with the Comoro Islands, under which the latter will receive a \$7.25 million loan for the deepening and equipping of Mutsumudu port, to enable it to receive bigger ships and to further facilitate its exports and imports activities. The agreement was signed by Dr. Ahmad Muhammad Ali, IDB president, and Saeed Kani, Comoran minister of foreign affairs, cooperation and foreign trade.

MADINAH (SPA) — Visiting Sri Lankan Communications and Religious Affairs Minister Muhammad Hanifa Muhammad arrived here Thursday for a visit to the Holy Prophet's Mosque. He was met at the airport by

Talal to leave on European mission

RIYADH, Feb. 18 (SPA) — Prince Talal ibn Abdul Aziz, honorary assistant secretary general of the United Nations, special envoy to the UNICEF and chairman of AGFUND, will leave here for Rome Saturday, to begin a tour of Italy, France and Switzerland for signing agreements with several U.N. development organizations.

In Rome, Prince Talal will sign an accord Monday with the Food and Agriculture Org-

Tunisian minister concludes visit

JEDDAH, Feb. 18 (SPA) — Tunisian Agriculture Minister Al-Asaad ibn Asman left here Thursday after a five-day visit during which he held talks with Agriculture and Water Minister Dr. Abdul Rahman Al-Sheikh on promoting cooperation in agricultural and animal resources.

The Tunisian minister also signed a memorandum of understanding between his country and Saudi Arabia concentrating on cooperation and exchange of expertise and infor-

mation. Later, in Paris, he will sign two agreements with the UNESCO and the U.N. Development Program (UNDP). In Geneva, the prince is scheduled to sign an agreement with the World Health Organization (WHO).

According to these agreements, the U.N. agencies will finance a number of development projects in several developing countries.

In a statement to SPA Thursday, Yamani hailed the close ties existing between the people of the two countries. Expressing his pleasure over the opening of the Saudi-funded Salam Hospital in Saada, the minister said "this is the first fruit of the constructive efforts exerted by the coordination council toward the realization of well-being and welfare for the brotherly people of North Yemen". He described Saudi-Yemeni ties as a "model to be followed by Arab and Islamic countries."

Yamani reiterated that the leaderships and peoples of the two countries are keenly anxious to further consolidate the bonds of fraternity, inspired by the sublime faith. He said "we all observe with pride the gigantic and constructive steps being taken by the people of Yemen toward further development, stability and prosperity".

He described his country's relations with the Kingdom as "good, strong and continuously developing through joint cooperation." He said he met with Riyadh Governor Prince Salman and a number of ministers during the visit and discussed further boosting of agricultural cooperation. He expressed admiration for the comprehensive achievements in the agricultural sector he witnessed in various parts of the country.

Earlier during the day, Asman visited the Jeddah desalination plant and was welcomed by Abdul Aziz Nassif, Saline Water Conversion Corporation director in the Western Region, and other officials. The Tunisian minister was briefed on the plant's operations and objectives. Asman inspected the special electrical pressures room at the desalination plant and progress of work on the second phase of the project and its main units.

He also visited Jeddah Islamic Port and the Fish Research Center there. He was briefed on its operation and objectives. He saw the experimental fish pool and toured the center's machinery, the fish laboratory and natural museum.

Asman, who began his tour Sunday and visited various areas in the Kingdom, toured Jeddah to see the urban development.

Saudi-Yemeni ties commended

RIYADH, Feb. 18 (SPA) — Information Minister Dr. Muhammad Abdo Yamani has commended the role of the North Yemeni-Saudi Coordination Council and the Saudi Projects Bureau in Yemen in the implementation of development projects in that country.

In a statement to SPA Thursday, Yamani hailed the close ties existing between the people of the two countries. Expressing his pleasure over the opening of the Saudi-funded Salam Hospital in Saada, the minister said "this is the first fruit of the constructive efforts exerted by the coordination council toward the realization of well-being and welfare for the brotherly people of North Yemen". He described Saudi-Yemeni ties as a "model to be followed by Arab and Islamic countries."

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Sweden to help in water control

JEDDAH, Feb. 18 — Swedish know-how will soon help Saudi Arabia control water leakage and increase pumping capabilities. Fahd Sulaiman Hamad Al-Sulaiman, director general of the Western Region Water and Sewage Department, said Thursday.

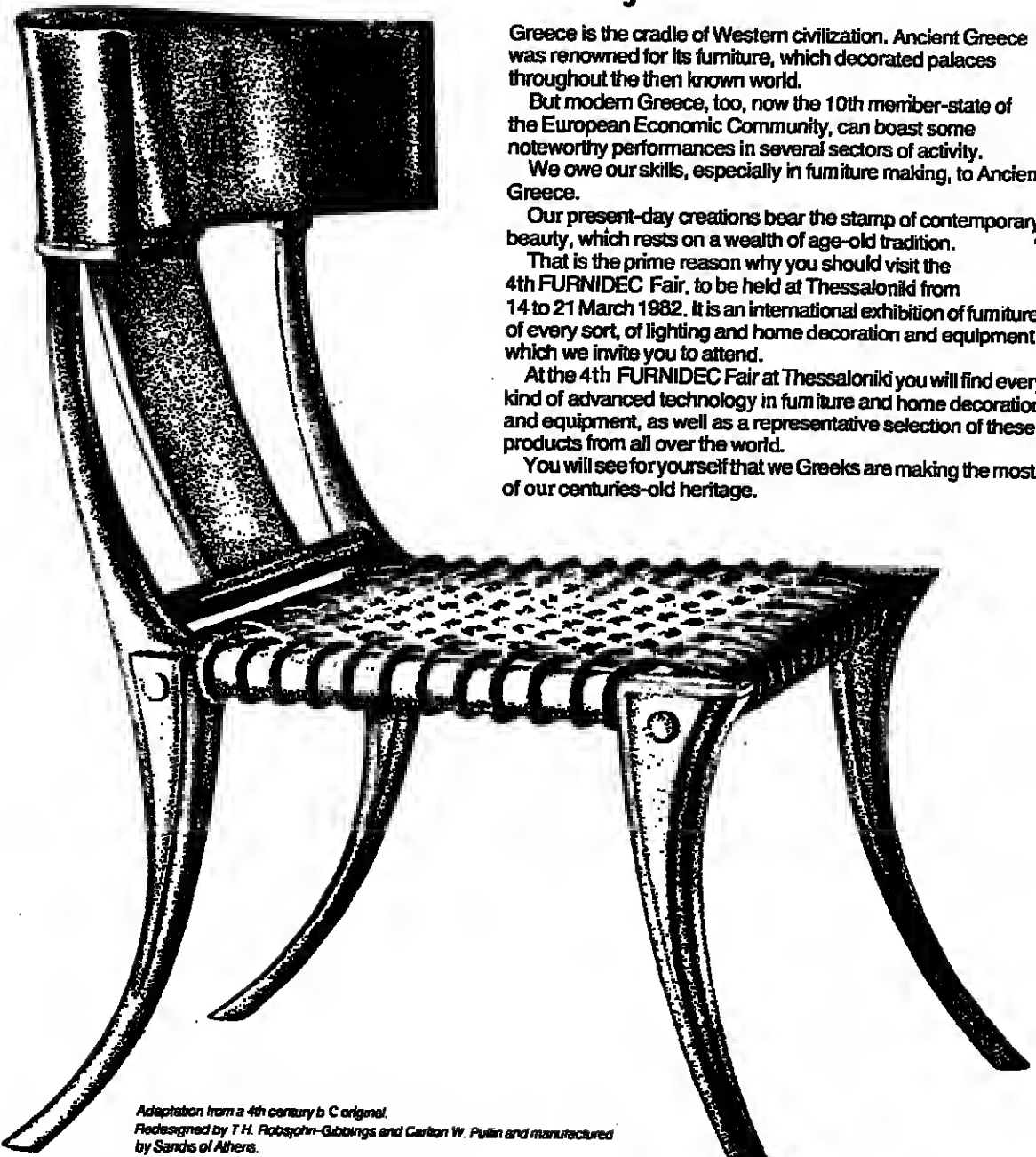
Sulaiman, who is back from a 10-day official visit, told *Al-Bilad* Thursday that Sweden has managed to control water leakage. The Swedes use three ways which were shown to the Saudi delegation. The most ordinary one is the "audio system" to locate the leakage anywhere in the network.

Another method is to use electric frequency which is the cheapest and the easiest method, he said.

Prayer Times

| Friday | Makkah | Madinah | Riyadh | Dammam | Buraidah | Tabuk |
|------------------|--------|---------|--------|--------|----------|-------|
| Fajr (Dawn) | 5:24 | 5:28 | 4:59 | 4:48 | 5:12 | 5:44 |
| Dhuhr (Noon) | 12:35 | 12:36 | 12:07 | 11:54 | 12:18 | 12:48 |
| Asr (Afternoon) | 3:53 | 3:52 | 3:24 | 3:09 | 3:34 | 4:02 |
| Maghreb (Sunset) | 6:21 | 6:19 | 5:51 | 5:36 | 6:00 | 6:28 |
| Isha (Night) | 7:51 | 7:49 | 7:21 | 7:06 | 7:30 | 7:58 |

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حكمة من الامم

Struggle will go on, PLO says

Arabs condemn U.S. commitment to Israel

AMMAN, Feb. 18 (R) — Jordanian and Palestinian officials and newspapers around the Arab world have reacted sharply to a declaration by the United States that it was determined to maintain Israel's military superiority in the Middle East.

President Reagan made the statement Tuesday after an uproar in Israel over indications from Defense Secretary Caspar Weinberger that the United States might consider the sale of advanced missiles and aircraft to Jordan. Jordanian newspapers quoted Foreign Minister Marwan Al-Qassem as saying: "When similar deals in the past were blocked by the American Congress and the Israeli lobby, Jordan contracted to buy weapons from others."

He did not elaborate. But a senior official traveling with Weinberger in the Middle East last week said Jordan had agreed to buy mobile air defense missiles from the Soviet Union after the U.S. Congress barred the sale of similar American weapons. In Beirut, a spokesman for the Palestine Liberation Organization (PLO) said: "In spite of (Israeli Prime Minister Menachem) Begin's insistence on military superiority, the Palestinian people will continue their just struggle and resist occupation."

He added: "Let Reagan remember that empires have crumbled and truth and justice will be victorious in the end."

Newspapers in the Gulf, as well as in Jordan

itself, condemned the U.S. statement and criticized Israeli objections to a possible sale of advanced U.S. weapons to Jordan. The senior official with Weinberger said the defense secretary would view sympathetically a request from Jordan to buy missiles and planes. Israel criticized the statement and President Reagan said Weinberger had not brought back any new arms request from Jordan's King Hussein.

In the United Arab Emirates, the semi-official daily *Al-Itihad* said it was surprising President Reagan should respond so swiftly to Israel's request for assurances "while we Arabs make hundreds of appeals to Reagan only to find deaf ears and closed doors."

In Syria, whose relations with Jordan are badly strained, newspapers reported Reagan's statement on their front pages but made no editorial comment. But the pro-Syrian daily *Al-Sharq* in Beirut declared: "The fabricated Israeli-American difference of opinion is no more than preparation for a new Israeli act of aggression."

The Lebanese paper *Al-Bayraq* said: "U.S. experts know better than anyone that Jordan getting F-16 planes would not affect the military balance in favor of the eastern (Arab) front against Israel, but just make Jordan more able to defend its skies."

In Jordan, an official said: "Israel's indignation is a trial aimed at influencing America. Its position clearly shows that it preferred military security to comprehensive peace."

W. Bank agitation intensified

TEL AVIV, Feb. 18 (Agencies) — Palestinians across the occupied West Bank intensified agitation Thursday on the second day of disturbances following the closure of a West Bank university, a military spokesman said.

Unidentified assailants smashed the windshield of an Israeli bus as it passed Qalandia refugee camp on the northern outskirts of Tel Aviv, and stones were thrown at an Israeli vehicle on its way to a Jewish settlement near Ramallah, the spokesman said.

In Ramallah, highschool students distributed anti-Israeli pamphlets and burned tires on the road. Several schools in the town, in Nablus, the West Bank's largest town, to protest the closure of Bir Zeit University, the

spokesman said.

Security forces closed the all-Palestinian university two days earlier after students attacked two Israeli education officials who had come to talk with the university's president.

Bir Zeit has been a center of anti-Israel agitation and was reopened only six weeks ago after a two-month closure following anti-Israel disturbances there.

Meanwhile, Israeli authorities Thursday arrested two residents of the Golan Heights suspected of attacking a man who backed Israel's annexation of the occupied territory, informed sources said. The arrests came as agitation by residents in the Golan Heights entered the fifth day.

Kyprianou to visit Athens today

NICOSIA, Feb. 18 (AP) — Cyprus President Kyprianou is making a surprise visit to Athens Friday for "an urgent meeting" with Greek Premier Andreas Papandrou, the Cyprus government announced Thursday. The announcement said "information of the Greek government about possible developments in the Cyprus problem make necessary an urgent meeting between the Greek premier and the president of Cyprus."

The announcement about the need for

such an urgent meeting was all the more surprising as Papandrou was scheduled to arrive in Cyprus for a four-day official visit in eight days time, Feb. 27.

Hugo Gobbi, the special United Nations representative in Cyprus, announced through his spokesman Keith Bevan he had been informed of Kyprianou's sudden visit. He declined comment on the Cyprus government statement about "possible developments," saying further information should come from the Cyprus government.

Court acquits ex-president of Bangladesh

DACCA, Feb. 18 (AFP) — The Bangladesh Supreme Court has quashed the five-year-old conviction of former Bangladesh President Khandaker Moshtaque Ahmad on charges of corruption and misuse of power, it was reported here Thursday.

The surprise decision was reached Wednesday by the court's five-member appellate division headed by Chief Justice Kamaluddin Hussein, which will announce a detailed judgment later. The conviction was by a martial law court in 1977. Moshtaque Ahmad, who was released last March after serving four years of his sentence, became president following the bloody coup in August 1975 which overthrew Sheikh Mujibur Rahman's government. But he remained in power only three months before being ousted in another coup and was later detained.

Before becoming president, he had earlier been foreign minister in 1971 during Bangladesh's independence war and then commerce and flood control minister in Sheikh Mujib's Awami League cabinet.

Shamir to visit Egypt Sunday

CAIRO, Feb. 18 (R) — Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak was quoted Thursday as saying that Israeli Foreign Minister Yitzhak Shamir was expected to start a six-day visit to Egypt Sunday.

The mass circulation *Al-Akhar* said the president made the statement to Egyptian journalists on his way back from Muscat Wednesday. Mubarak held two days of talks with Sultan Qaboos of Oman on Middle East developments, and bilateral relations.

The Egyptian leader said that no date was yet fixed for his visit to Israel, but that this would come up in discussions between Egyptian Foreign Minister Kamal Hassan Ali and Shamir. Ali said Saturday that the president's visit was expected to take place toward the end of March.

He said the visit had been set for early March but was postponed until after the visit of French President Francois Mitterrand to Israel.

BRIEFS

MANAMA, (AP) — Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Oais Abdul-Moneim Al-Zuwawi has relinquished his post to become Oman's deputy prime minister for finance and economy.

TEHRAN, (AFP) — A copy of a letter signed by Ayatollah Khomeini appeared in newspapers here Thursday to counter speculation triggered by Sunday's announcement that the Ayatollah is withdrawing from public life for two weeks.

AMMAN, (AFP) — Crown Prince Hassan of Jordan, younger brother of King Hussein, left here Thursday for working visits to India and Pakistan expected to last several days.

KUWAIT, (AP) — Kuwait has received an official request from Iran to serve as staging point for family visits to prisoners of the Iran-Iraq war, the Kuwait newspaper *Al-Anba* said Thursday.

Lebanon oil officials abducted, freed

BEIRUT, Feb. 18 (AP) — Gunmen shooting automatic weapons into the air kidnapped an American oil executive and two Lebanese companions on the coastal highway in southern Lebanon Thursday morning. The victims' co-workers said all three were released unharmed about seven hours later.

American Embassy spokesman John Reid said in Beirut shortly after midday that he had been told by the victims' Beirut company offices that they have been released. He had no other details.

Dr. Samira Ali Ahmad, a pediatrician and wife of Ghalib Ali Ahmad, Lebanese general manager of the American-owned Mediterranean Refinery Company (MEDRECO), said that trusted friends had called her from southern Lebanon to report that her kidnapped

husband, his American employer and their Lebanese driver were set free. "They told me a while ago that all three men are in good shape. They were treated well in captivity and are now being provided with an escort to the home in Beirut," said Mrs. Ali Ahmad at the Beirut headquarters of MEDRECO.

Employees who handled the telex and telephone communications that involved intense negotiations for the release of Thomas E. Anderson, Ali Ahmad and the driver said the kidnappers belonged to no specific political party of militia in Lebanon. But the employees, who requested anonymity, said that abductors were a group of Lebanese applicants who were unhappy with the way they were recently interviewed for jobs at MEDRECO.

Anderson, 58, has worked here for more

than two years. He was identified at the MEDRECO offices as vice president of the firm and the managing director of Caltex, the American oil firm. According to telexes the company sent to Lebanese President Elias Sarkis, two unions at the refinery and tanker loading terminal threatened to shut down operations if the executives were not released.

A spokesman for the company said Anderson and Ahmad, along with the unidentified Lebanese driver, left Beirut at 6 a.m. for the 52 kms drive south to the Zaharani refinery, and were stopped by gunmen about 1.6 kms north of their destination.

"Workers at the refinery heard the shots and saw what happened," said the company spokeswoman, who asked not to be identified for fear of reprisals.

Militias clash with Syrians

BEIRUT, Feb. 18 (AP) — Militiamen of two rival factions fought night-long street battles with Syrian peacekeeping forces in Lebanon's northern port city of Tripoli Thursday as a bomb blast wrecked Turkey's abandoned tourist center in Beirut overnight, a police spokesman reported.

The spokesman, who declined to be named, said no casualty report was available from Tripoli where fighting with machine guns, mortars and rocket-propelled grenades tapered off at daybreak. He said there was no clue as to what provoked the clashes between Syrian units overseeing Lebanon's five-year-old civil war armistice and two Tripoli-based militias called the Public Resistance Movement and the Oct. 24 Movement.

Iraq requests summit to ponder Gulf war

BAGHDAD, Feb. 18 (R) — Iraq has asked the Arab League to put the Gulf war on the agenda for the next Arab summit. Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Hamed Alwan was quoted Thursday as saying.

In an interview with the ruling Baath Party publication *Al-Thawra*, Alwan said Arab states supported the Iraqi request concerning the 17-month-old struggle. The summit is due to meet in Morocco sometime later this year. Alwan denied reports Iraq intended to form a so-called Arab liberation army to fight Iran and possibly Israel.

Repeating an offer by President Saddam Hussein, he said Iraq was ready to cooperate with Iranian opposition groups. Alwan said Iraq participated in the Arab foreign ministers' meeting in Tunis which condemned Israel's annexation of the Syrian Golan Heights as a gesture of Arab solidarity.



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| NAVI STAR | 23-2-1982 | Reefer/Gen. | India |
| MALOIVE LOYALTY | 24-2-1982 | Tea/Gen. | Colombo/Karachi |
| MALOIVE PROGRESS | 28-2-1982 | Maize/Gen. | Bangkok |
| SAUDI INDEPENDENCE | 28-2-1982 | General | Europe |

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| SAUDI SUNRISE | 08-2-1982 | 13-2-1982 | General/Far East |
| MALDIVE PREVILEGE | 05-2-1982 | 10-2-1982 | General/Far East |
| SAUDI FALCON | 08-2-1982 | 12-2-1982 | General/Europe |
| SAUDI PRINCE | 09-2-1982 | 13-2-1982 | General/Bangkok/Karachi |
| SAI NANAK | 11-2-1982 | 13-2-1982 | General/Bombay |
| SAUDI AMBASSADOR | 12-2-1982 | 14-2-1982 | General/Europe |
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Black & White Ads: Prefer 100- to 130-line screen. Film negative (right-reading, unmatron-also down.) Color Ads: Require 4-color negatives with color proof. Any compositing or art production necessary for ads will be charged to advertiser. (Quotes available on request.) Materials cannot be returned.

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Deng appears in public

China to tame bureaucracy

PEKING, Feb. 18 (AP) — Communist China's foremost leader Deng Xiaoping ended a five-week absence from public view Thursday, greeting Cambodian Prince Norodom Sihanouk in the Great Hall of the People and declaring war against China's bureaucracy.

The 77-year-old Communist Party vice chairman proclaimed China is enjoying unprecedented political stability and therefore can streamline the bureaucracy, the official Xinhua news agency reported.

He also told Sihanouk he hoped the three Cambodian factions would meet soon in Peking to form an Anti-Vietnamese coalition, an aide to Sihanouk said.

Deng's last public appearance was Jan. 12 when he welcomed delegates to an army political conference in Peking. His absence prompted speculation about his physical and political health and about disunity in the leadership. "He looks very fine, in very good health," said Sihanouk's aide, noting that Deng was smiling, joking and smoking a little less.

Deng had been resting in southern China and acknowledged speculation about his absence but said rumors of political trouble were not true, the aide said.

Western diplomatic observers said Deng's reappearance confirms he still is in power and ready to carry on his battle against bureaucracy and party corruption.

His meeting with a prominent figure like Sihanouk apparently was intended to dispel rumors and demonstrate that he clearly is involved in major issues and political strategy.

Deng said the retirement of old officials is a pressing problem which must be solved. "We are determined to take it as a revolution," he said. "Of course, this is a revolution in administrative structure, not a revolution against anyone." Xinhua quoted him as saying, Deng said cutting the overlapping, overstuffed central bureaucracy started a month ago. "It is going on very smoothly... I think the job can be finished much earlier than expected."

During his stay in southern China Deng cracked the whip, according to Chinese sources, ordering retirement of old cadres, streamlining the government and punishing corrupt officials.

Sihanouk called Deng's reform of the bureaucracy "an event of historic significance and a constructive revolution." Xinhua said, "The world pays special attention to the stability of your country and world public opinion wishes you good health," Sihanouk said.

In another development, China is introducing new rules on advertising after finding that here — as elsewhere in the world — advertisers sometimes do not always tell the truth about their products, the *People's Daily* newspaper said Thursday.

The days when commercial advertising was denounced in China as a capitalist evil are over, and large billboards are now a common sight. But the *People's Daily* said many problems had cropped up due to insufficient supervision. "For example, some advertisers lied in their advertisements to cheat consumers," the *People's Daily* said.

The regulations ban advertisements that are considered "reactionary, obscene, unsightly or superstitious." But, confirming that advertisements are here to stay, the newspaper said they had played a positive role in boosting China's economic growth.

Nancy cancels loans of clothes

WASHINGTON, Feb. 18 (R) — President Reagan's wife Nancy has notified U.S. fashion designers and the American public that she will no longer accept loans of clothes, a White House official said.

Mrs. Reagan revealed more than three weeks ago she had been accepting free clothes from her favorite designers so she could later donate them to museums where students of fashion design could use them.

The practice stirred up a public controversy and even prompted a defensive response from President Reagan during a recent television interview. The first lady's press secretary Sheila Tate said Wednesday that Mrs. Reagan had ended the practice because she felt her efforts to help the fashion industry had been misunderstood.

American hotel waiter gets jail for murder

LAS VEGAS, Feb. 18 (R) — Philip Cline, a waiter, was sentenced to life imprisonment for the murder of eight people who died in a fire in the giant Las Vegas Hilton Hotel. The jury, which found 23-year-old Cline guilty of murder last month, ordered the sentence to be passed on each of the eight counts. Under Nevada state law, it could still be commuted after he has spent 15 years in prison.

The prosecution said at his trial that Cline, started the fire last February so he could become a hero by putting it out. Cline said he started the fire accidentally when he dropped a cigarette. The fire swept through part of the east wing of the 2,780-room hotel, killing eight persons and injuring 200.

The blaze came only three months after 85 persons died in a fire caused by an electrical failure at the nearby MGM Grand Hotel. Cline's lawyer told reporters an appeal against the sentence would be lodged with the Nevada Supreme Court.

Kidnap trial begins in Italian town

CAGLIARI, Sardinia, Feb. 18 (AP)

The biggest kidnap trial in Italy's history began here Thursday with a gang of 93 handouts accused to eight kidnappings, two murders and four attempted abductions.

A makeshift courtroom has been set up in a boxing ring to accommodate the unusually large number of people. More than 700 witnesses will give evidence in the trial, expected to last about eight months.

Dubbed "super kidnapping incorporated" by the press, the gang is accused of a series of abductions on the island in the summers of 1978 and 1979, including that of British businessman Rolf Schild. Families of the kidnap victims paid a total of 3 billion lire (\$2.4 million) in ransom. Only some of the money has been recovered.

Schild and his wife and daughter were kidnapped while holidaying in Sardinia in August 1979. He was released 5000 after, and his family was freed unharmed after he reportedly paid 500 million lire (\$400,000) ransom. His daughter was released after an appeal to the kidnappers by Pope John Paul II.

Police managed to break up the ring after 15-year-old Marina Casana was released.

One of her captors fell in love with her, and she memorized the details of the organization that he had told her. She knew him only as "Speedy Gonzales." Marina was released after two months and payment of a ransom of 500 million lire (\$400,000).

Many "citizens above suspicion" have been implicated in the affair, including local shopkeepers, farmers and women who would be sitting in cars and acting as lookouts for the kidnapped.

Force to defend Mexico oilfields

WASHINGTON, Feb. 18 (AP) — Mexico is training a 4,000-man quick-reaction force to defend its southern border and oilfields against a possible spillover of Central America's guerrilla wars, the *Washington Post* said in Thursday's edition.

The *Post*, quoting unidentified "official sources," said in a dispatch from Mexico City that the proposed force represents the latest stage of a major effort to expand and modernize the Mexican armed forces.

Informed sources were quoted as saying the force will have the ability to respond within hours to a crisis anywhere in Mexico, particularly in southern states bordering on Guatemala.

The *Post* said that although Mexican foreign policy has tended to support guerrilla movements in Nicaragua and El Salvador, Mexican officials are known to be increasingly concerned about the situation in Guatemala. The newspaper said that authorities are concerned that Mexico will become a base for Guatemalan guerrilla activities and that the Guatemalan military might cross the border pursuing rebels.

BRIEFS

THE HAGUE, (AFP) — A U.S. cargo ship carrying munitions for army bases in West Germany has been refused permission to unload at the Dutch port of Delfzijl for ooward rail transit, port authorities announced Thursday. The *American Ranger*, loaded with 1,200 tons of conventional munitions, was due in port Friday but will oow proceed to the West German port of Nordenham. The director of the port transit center advised the Americans two days ago that the cargo could not be handled because of the large number of ships expected at their docks.

KAMPALA, (AFP) — Ugandan police are holding the controversial chairman of the ruling Uganda peoples Congress for Luwero south constituency, Haji Musa Sebirumbi, a Kampala vernacular daily, *Taifa Empya*, reported Thursday. Sebirumbi was picked up by plainclothes policemen at his home in central Kampala Tuesday as part of investigations into a wave of insecurity in his constituency, which is just oorth of Kampala, the newspaper reported quoting a police official.

WASHINGTON, (AFP) — The Soviet Union has apparently provided Cuba with a squadron of helicopter gunships and two missile firing naval launches, sources close to the U.S. Intelligence Service said Thursday. U.S. intelligence is expecting further deliveries of Soviet military equipment to Cuba, notably a third squadron of Mi-23 fighters. Last month, nine MiG-23 aircraft bodies arrived in Cuba.

MOSCOW, (AFP) — Joint American-South Korean maneuvers now being held off the South Korean coast are part of a provocative "offensive strategy" aimed at North Korea, *Pravda* charged Thursday. The United States was also trying to make Japan participate in their "military preparations", while South Korea now had more frequent military contacts with Japan, the Soviet party daily added.

BUENOS AIRES, (R) — Argentine conservationists are rallying to block a plan to kill 48,000 penguins a year in Patagonia by a firm making gloves and other products. The Wildlife Fund of Argentina Wednesday night called on the governor of the southern province of Chubut not to let the firm, Peoguin Hodge, set up a factory in the area.

PEKING, (R) — The Chinese Foreign Ministry Thursday described as "completely groundless" a report that China and Britain had agreed to sign a friendship treaty over the future of Hong Kong. A Hong Kong newspaper said Monday that China and Britain had agreed in principle to a treaty under which the British would continue to govern Hong Kong after existing leases expire.

BONN, (AFP) — The president of the West German Social Democrat Party's parliamentary group, Herbert Wehner, Thursday left for Warsaw on a private visit, countering criticisms by saying he hoped his trip would help find a peaceful solution to the Polish crisis.

Deficiencies in design alleged

Canada to inspect rigs

OTTAWA, Feb. 18 (AP) — Two offshore oil rigs operating in the stormy North Atlantic where the oil rig Ocean Ranger sank with a loss of 84 lives will be towed to land for inspection, Energy Minister Marc Lalonde announced Wednesday.

Meanwhile, a man who identified himself as a former captain of the Ocean Ranger claimed a U.S. Coast Guard inspector found 200 deficiencies in the design, structure and maintenance of the rig months ago but nothing was done.

The rigs called in for inspection are the Zapata Uglund and Sedco-706, each with a working complement of about 75 men. Like the Ocean Ranger, they were drilling for Mobil Oil of Canada in the Hibernia field.

Neither reported any difficulty in the storm that sank the Ocean Ranger Monday and a Soviet freighter Tuesday with a total loss of at least 116 lives. Lalonde said federal inspectors would board the two rigs for safety checks when the fierce storm abates and the rigs then will be towed to Newfoundland for thorough examinations by the American Bureau of Shipping.

The Bureau of Shipping is an international agency charged with certifying the seaworthiness of rigs registered in the United States. Keith Nicol, its senior surveyor in Halifax, Nova Scotia, said the Ocean Ranger passed a full inspection last June and the two other Mobil rigs were inspected last fall.

Nicol said "there were no outstanding recommendations, there were no defects" reported for the Ocean Ranger.

However, Capt. Carl Nehring, who said he gave up command of the Ocean Ranger in January, claimed in an interview broadcast

Wednesday by the Canadian Broadcasting Corp. that the rig was plagued with problems. Among them, Nehring, said in a telephone interview from San Jose, Costa Rica, was insufficient maintenance of remote control valves on 32 tanks of liquid that control the stability of the rig.

"Any one of those valves could have gone bad because there's not enough maintenance on them... and a failure of one valve could have resulted in that overturning," Nehring said.

He said a Coast Guard official, who he did not name, found the deficiencies during a month-long stay on the rig. He said the official returned to the United States and wrote an article for the Coast Guard magazine about how well-organized and well-maintained the Ocean Ranger was.

"The oil companies are so overpowered that they can ride the United States Coast Guard. That's my opinion," Nehring said. Lt. Cmdr. Ronald Edmiston, chief of the Coast Guard Marine Safety Office at Providence, Rhode Island, said he had "no word of any officer that's been aboard the Ocean Ranger other than people from my office in April of 1980. There may have been Coast Guard people aboard, but if there were I would not know."

Meanwhile, the Canadian Parliament has reacted angrily to reports that the Soviet container ship *Mekhanik Tarasov*, which sank 240 nautical miles off Newfoundland on Tuesday, would have been carrying uranium hexachloride but for a technical delay.

The vessel, which left the St. Lawrence River port of Three Rivers last week, went down in violent seas.

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Top 3 pop records retain position

NEW YORK, Feb. 18 (AP) — The J. Geils Band, the team of Daryl Hall and John Oates, and Olivia Newton-John retained their one-two-three punch Wednesday at the top of the single pop record charts in the United States. "Centerfold" kept the Geils Group in the No. 1 spot in the *Cashbox* magazine chart for the fourth straight week. The Hall-Oates hit "I Can't Go for That" stayed on for a fourth week in second place, and the Newton-John "Physical" smash made it week No. 4 in third position.

Two newcomers made their way into the ten top pop list—the Group Journey with "Open Arms," up from 11th to 6th, and Stevie Wonder with "That Girl," up from 12th to 7th.

In the country and western singles field, T.G. Sheppard's "Only One You" took over the No. 1 spot in the *Cashbox* magazine chart. Ronnie McDowell's "Watchin' Girls go By" was second, and "Sine" by Waylon Jennings was third.

The ten top pop singles, as rated by *Cashbox*, with last week's positions in brackets:

- (1) Centerfold—The J. Geils Band.
- (2) I Can't Go for That—Daryl Hall and John Oates.
- (3) Physical—Olivia Newton-John.
- (4) Shake It Up—The Cars.
- (5) Harden my Heart—Quarterflash.
- (6) Open Arms—Journey.
- (7) That Girl—Stevie Wonder.
- (8) Sweet Dreams—Air Supply.
- (9) Leader of the Band—Dan Fogelberg.
- (10) The Sweetest Thing—Juice New-tow.

The ten top country-western singles, as rated by *Cashbox*, with last week's positions in brackets:

- (1) Only One You—T.G. Sheppard.
- (2) Watchin' Girls go By—Ronnie McDowell.
- (3) Shine—Waylon Jennings.
- (4) You're the Best Break This Old Heart Ever Had.
- (5) Mountain of Love—Charley Pride.
- (6) I Just Came Home to Count the Memories—John Anderson.
- (7) Do Me With Love—Janie Fricke.
- (8) Blue Moon with Heartache—Rosanne Casb.
- (9) Lord, I Hope This day is Good—Don Williams.
- (10) Bobbie Sue—The Oak Ridge Boys.

In the United Kingdom, the British new wave band, the Jam, held on to the top spot in best-selling singles chart this week with its Tamla Motown-sounding smash "Town Called Malice." There was no change at No. 2 either, where the Stranglers remained with the melodic "Golden Brown."

This week's singles chart as compiled by *Melody Maker*, with last week's placings in brackets:

- (1) Town Called Malice—Jam.
- (2) Golden Brown—Stranglers.
- (3) The Lion Sleeps Tonight—Tight Fit.
- (4) The Model—Kraftwerk.
- (5) Maid of Orleans—Orchestral Manoeuvres in the Dark.
- (6) I Can't Go for That—Daryl Hall and John Oates.
- (7) Say Hello Wave Goodbye—Soft Cell.
- (8) Love Plus One—Haircut one Hundred.
- (9) Arthur's Theme—Christopher Cross.
- (10) Ob Julie—Shakin Stevens.

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Taipei, Peking indulge in softball diplomacy

TOKYO — Have Nationalist China and Chinese mainland suddenly entered the era of softball diplomacy? Nationalist China's willingness, announced Tuesday, to let Peking play in the fifth world women's softball championship this summer in Taipei gives that impression.

That it represents a significant step toward bealing the long and festering quarrel which has divided the mainlanders from the Nationalist Chinese on Taiwan cannot be denied. But it may be premature to predict that this gesture — undoubtedly arrived

at with considerable pain and debate by the Nationalists — will soon lead to the national unification that Peking has urged for the past three years.

There is a temptation to compare Taipei's action to the invitation Peking issued to the U.S. ping pong team to tour China in April 1971. That historic visit inaugurated what has since been called "ping pong diplomacy." Eight years later, on Jan. 1, 1979, Washington gave full diplomatic recognition to Peking and broke its long-standing formal relations with Taipei.

The difference this time is that Peking seeks what

has long been regarded among the Nationalists as the unthinkable: recognition of Chinese Communist rule over all China. No decision as weighty and fateful as that confronted the United States when it embarked on "ping pong diplomacy."

What acceptance of the Peking government would mean for the Nationalists is abandonment of a revolutionary dream at least as strong and as persistent as that which brought the Communists to power in 1949. The Taiwan government repeatedly has made it plain it is not yet ready for that, no matter how generous the terms the Communists offer.

In several weeks of soul-searching — it had to invite fellow member Peking or give up the games — Taipei anguished over the possibility that if the Communists made their first appearance ever on Taiwan soil, they would make political hay with a vengeance.

Now, the Nationalists appear to have concluded they can take that chance, perhaps because they decided canceling the games would be seen as a show of spite and immaturity, whereas they might gain international prestige by putting sportsman-ship above politics. The alacrity with which Peking indicated it would go to Taipei — "we will definitely go and play," said a spokesman within an hour of the announcement — indicated the degree of importance its leaders attach to this event.

That Communist China will interpret the invitation as a major breakthrough toward unification goes without saying. And if it follows the example of the American ping pong visit, its athletes will carefully avoid playing politics on Nationalist ground. What cannot be predicted is what the mainland competitors will do when the Nationalist flag is raised and the Nationalist anthem played, a privilege extended only to the host country.

Time was when the Communists or the Nationalists, in a similar situation, would have walked out. But this is unlikely to happen in July. Once committed, the Communists seem prepared to go the whole distance. Taipei is running one grave risk, not so much from Peking as from its own population of 18 million. The danger is that a rising tide of expectations of long-delayed unification will be touched off, which would be hard to contain.

So, once again a minor sport plays a role in the tangled China situation. This ladies' softball competition — who knew they even played this typically American sport in China? — will get more world attention than all four which preceded it.

Press, radio and television will descend on the Nationalist capital, not so much to capture sports scores as to sniff out signs of rapprochement between the two old enemies. It would be foolish to dismiss the possibility that something significant could result. Although they fought a savage civil war in 1946-49, China's Nationalists and Communists on at least two other occasions have buried their differences to form a united front.

The first was in the 1920s when they joined hands to attack the northern warlords, the second was to confront the invading Japanese in World War II. And just before the civil war, U.S. mediator Gen. George C. Marshall all but brought them together a third time.

Given the Chinese art of compromise — as old as China's 3,000 years of history — something could give, even in a ladies softball game.

Big U.S. spending to improve Mombasa port

MOMBASA — The United States is spending millions of dollars to modernize the Indian Ocean port of Mombasa — with an eye to getting its warship sailors ashore more quickly after weeks of duty at sea.

The money is being spent to widen and deepen the approach and sides of Mombasa harbor so that large vessels, including giant U.S. aircraft carriers, can dock in port instead of anchoring at sea. Increasing superpower rivalry in the Indian Ocean has made this sweltering port town an important shore leave and provisioning stop for American vessels, allowed to dock here under a 1980 agreement with the Kenyan government.

But only the smaller frigates and cruisers can negotiate the narrow approaches and entrances to the port and steer a path through the reef-lined channel to seek safe anchor. Last month, the American aircraft carrier *USS Constellation* was anchored two miles out at sea, a great grey slab in a blue horizon, while two small warships from Britain, which also uses the port, were tied up inside the port.

On board, most of the carrier's 5,000-strong crew were waiting to get ashore to Mombasa after 51 days at sea working up to 18 hours a day. A small flotilla of boats, some chartered for the occasion,

ferried the sailors ashore where an army of guides and souvenir salesmen waited.

Pitching and rolling in the swell, the liber boats, as they are known in the U.S. Navy, made a picturesque sight for hundreds of tourists watching from the palm-lined shores.

But for the sailors, the ride can be a frustrating and uncomfortable experience, and the trip can be delayed for hours, if the weather is bad. "You have to stand in line on board ship to await your turn to get a liberty boat, sometimes an hour or more," an officer told reporters who visited the carrier. "Then the journey to shore takes about an hour and a half so a round trip can take up to six hours," he explained.

Such inconvenience should be eliminated next year when the harbor will have been dredged to allow *The Constellation* and ships of comparable size to enter the port, which at present can accommodate only vessels shorter than 245 meters.

The \$50-million project involves dredging the approaches and blasting small bits of coral reef to clear a passage eight kms long, one km wide and 15 meters deep, according to engineers. "It will mean a great deal in terms of morale," said Cap. Dennis M. Brooks, commander of *The Constellation*, the largest conventionally-powered aircraft carrier in the world. It would also make supplying the ship much

easier.

"Everything we get has to be dropped by helicopter or brought alongside in a boat, so tying up right by the shops will save a great deal of time," a senior officer said. The carrier serves 15,000 meals a day, bakes 1,000 loaves of bread daily and goes through 2,500 kg of meat and 5,000 kg of vegetables and 1,360 kg of potatoes every 24 hours.

A more interesting statistics for the local population is that an American sailor spends an average of \$300 during a port call. Last month, there were an estimated 7,000 U.S. sailors as well as British crews in the town, a potential outlay of \$2.1 million during a stay of about 10 days.

Mombasa thrives on its tourism and adapts quickly to new markets. Many craft shops have huge signs in German advertising their wares because most tourists are from Germany.

Apparently out of concern for security, Cap. Brooks would not name the other vessels which accompanied the carrier to Mombasa. But a t-shirt in the main street did. It read: "Mombasa welcomes the U.S. Navy *USS Constellation*, *Truxton*, *Badley*, *Olendorf*, *Santa Barbara*, *Mispillion*."

A U.S. official reluctantly agreed that these were the names of the ships in the battle group headed by *The Constellation*.

South Africa tightens control on press

By Allister Sparks

CAPE TOWN — South Africa's move toward tighter press control is part of a general retreat into siege politics as Prime Minister P.W. Botha backs away from reforms which he said earlier were necessary to avoid revolution. It is no coincidence that the government tabled the Rikie report recommending a streamlining of the country's draconian security laws, and implying that they are now a permanent rather than a passing necessity, in the same week that it presented the Steyn report on the media. Both are part of the pattern.

Botha has taken fright at the backlash among Afrikaners against the reformist line he took when he first became prime minister in 1978. The gains made by the right-wing Herstigte Nasionale Party in the general election last April shook him. Although the HNP did not win any seats it came within striking distance in about 30 constituencies.

If he could see the revolutionary threat before, he must know that by raising expectations in vain he has increased it. So he is batten down the hatches. This doesn't mean Judge Marthinus Steyn's press law will go through, with its cynically transparent proposal for a register of journalists presided over by a government-appointed council. Probably it won't. The South African government is not without subtlety in such matters and its tactic in the past has been to use such menacing proposals to

alarm the newspaper industry into applying more self-censorship.

It naturally prefers to avoid the odium if possible, and can often appear quite magnanimous in doing so while the press drives its own dagger deeper into its vitals. That is how the present Press Council came into existence and has been periodically "strengthened", with a code of conduct that was negotiated with the previous prime minister, John Vorster. It would not be surprising to see the present proposed legislation shelved amid sighs of relief, and the Press Council emerge in a little while with a "voluntary" register of its own.

Either way, Botha's intention is to have less dissent.

The pressures on the newspapers have been mounting for some time. Last August there was a secret meeting between editors and senior officers of South Africa's security forces, at which the editors were given "guidelines" on how matters affecting national security should be reported — with the implied threat that: if there was no cooperation legislation would follow.

The thrust of the siege politics is to present South Africa as being at war. "Total onslaught" is the vogue phrase, used repeatedly by the prime minister and echoed by Judge Steyn. It was coined in the bad old days of the Carter administration to convey the idea that South Africa was being hammered by both East and West and needed to marshal all its resources to withstand this.

With Ronald Reagan in office, the onslaught is now total in the sense that it is being waged on many fronts: military, economically, psychologically, internally, externally, in sport, in politics and, not least, in the field of propaganda. To meet it there must be an equally comprehensive "total strategy" embracing all these fields. The press among other institutions must be harnessed to the needs of total strategy.

How and why has this shift from the reformist hopes of only three years ago taken place?

Why should a prime minister with a majority of 140 in parliament of 177 be so mortally afraid of a split in his party that he decides to forego reforms which he considers necessary to save his people

from the threat of revolution? Particularly when he must know he would have the support of the opposition parties for any reform measures which would more than make up for the seats he would lose.

The main reason is that, although the political arithmetic may look favorable to outsiders, such a move would mean splitting Afrikaner nationalism. The movement is locked into a belief that Afrikanerdom as an embattled white minority in a black continent must stay united if it is to survive. For the Afrikaners, unlike the English-speaking South Africans, have nowhere else to go. After three centuries in Africa they have lost their roots in Europe and have no fallback position.

Vorster, saw the old ideology of separate development — as devised by a former prime minister, Dr. Hendrik Verwoerd — running into a cul-de-sac. He tried to meet the need for change, but found himself a prisoner of the ideology.

The split of the Herstigte Nasionale Party faction in 1969 showed that positive change would threaten party unity. That was a traumatic experience for Vorster, and left him emotionally incapable of ever again pushing change to the point where it would cause another major breakaway. So Vorster fell back to making *ad hoc* adjustments as the ideology crumbled and crises arose.

Like Vorster at the outset, Botha also recognized the impracticability of the ideology and began talking about the need for reform. By reform, of course, he didn't mean abandoning separate development, merely trying to make it more pragmatic and workable. But even this was too much for the ideological vigilantes in his party.

Now it is back to an elastoplast policy of *ad hoc* first aid as each new crisis arises. And the crisis points are appearing fast. South Africa is in the throes of a compressed industrial revolution, experiencing in half-a-generation what happened over a century in Europe.

A whole generation of dispossessed blacks is drifting into the cities, a lumpen proletariat that is linking up with the more sophisticated city elements. A volatile period lies ahead, and if there cannot be reform the only alternative is tighter control. (ONS)

Saudi Arabian press review

The call for an urgent need to establish Arab solidarity to face the dangers threatening the Arabs common destiny and new Middle East developments in the light of the remarks of U.S. and French heads of state on the Arab-Israeli conflict, figured for editorial comments in Thursday's newspapers.

Okaz warned against the U.S. conception of peace in the Middle East and said the United States was completely wrong because Israel is the only power which is threatening peace and trying to push the whole world into the verge of an all-out war.

Referring to President Reagan's remarks Tuesday in which he vowed the U.S. would keep the military supremacy of Israel over the Arab states, the paper said such statements have proved the strong influence of the Zionist lobby in the United States. It urged the U.S. administration to reconsider its biased policy toward the Zionist entity which would not have indulged in naked aggression without the unlimited American military backing.

"If the U.S. is keen and honest to preserve peace in the region and ensure its vital interests in the Mideast and friendship with Arabs, it should cease its unlimited weapons supply to the Zionist entity," the paper added.

Al-Madinah strongly criticized the upcoming visit of the French President Mitterrand to Israel and

the French government Mideast policy. It asked whether the Arab League would take a firm action against this policy, particularly in the light of French failure to support the Arab rights in U.N. voting against the Israeli annexation of the Syrian Golan Heights.

Al-Riyadh warned that Israel is paving the way for a new strike against southern Lebanon and even against Jordan and Syria in the absence of a collective Arab front. It predicted that Israel will put new conditions for its final withdrawal from Sinai and will create an uproar on Jordan's request for U.S. arms in the light of recent visit of U.S. Secretary of Defense Casper Weinberger to Amman.

The paper noted the U.S. considers Israel as a dependable ally and is channelling full military and economic aid to Israel in spite of its aggressive and expansionist nature. It also warned against joint secret agreements between U.S. Western Europe and Israel to keep the current tension in the Mideast as long as possible for depleting Arab resources.

Al-Jazirah urged for enhancing Arab solidarity in the face of the challenges and dangers threatening the Arab existence. A unified and a collective Arab front is the only weapon that can be effective in countering challenges and restore the legitimate Arab rights and liberate Arab territories, the paper said. (SPA)

Letters to the editor

ARAB NEWS welcomes letters from the readers. The letters, preferably typed and having full address, may be edited for space and clarity. They should be addressed to:
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TODAY IN HISTORY

Today is Friday, February 19th, the 50th day of 1982. There are 315 days left in the year.
Highlights in history on this date:
1499 — Florence joins French alliance for partition of Milan in Italy.
1797 — Pope Pius VI, by Treaty of Tolentino, cedes the Romagna, Bologna and Ferrara to France, as Napoleon Bonaparte advances through Tyrol to Vienna.
1800 — Napoleon Bonaparte, as first consul establishes himself in the Tuileries.
1803 — Act of mediation is passed in Switzerland, whereby Cantons regain independence.
1807 — British fleet forces way through Dardanelles to support Russia in war against Turkey.
1924 — Shah Ahmad of Persia is deposed.
1942 — Japanese bombers carry out their first attack against mainland Australia.
1959 — Agreement is signed in London by Greece, Turkey and Britain for independence of Cyprus.
1963 — Soviet Union agrees to withdraw its troops from Cuba.
1973 Soviet airliner crashes and burns at an airport in Prague, Czechoslovakia killing 77 persons.

Thought for today:
Charity is the perfection and ornament of religion — Joseph Addison, English writer-statesman (1672-1719).

How to become a Muslim

By Adil Salahi

A number of readers have asked me about converting to Islam and what is involved in this conversion. More often than not they expressed their wish to remain anonymous. Some of them have asked further questions. I am therefore attempting to answer the most common questions relevant to the subject and hope that every one of them considers this article as a reply to his or her own question. More specific questions will be answered separately. Allah willing.

Adoption of the religion of Islam is very simple. Nothing is required except a declaration by the person concerned that he believes in Allah as the only God and in Muhammad as his messenger. What this declaration actually means is an acceptance that worship can be offered only to Allah and that authority to legislate rests solely with Allah. Man's position is to obey and implement Allah's laws, whatever they are. Should the law of any authority, government, parliament, society or tribal council, clash with Allah's laws then the latter must be implemented without any question. The Prophet says what may be translated as follows: "No creature may be obeyed in violation of the laws of the Creator."

Now, how do we know Allah's legislation? The second half of our declaration provides the answer to this question. Our acknowledgement of Muhammad as Allah's messenger means that we accept him as the man through whom Allah has conveyed to us the code of legislation. He wants us to implement in our lives for our own benefit. It is through Muhammad that the Qur'an has been sent down to us as the book containing the divine constitution for human life. Muhammad's own pronouncements serve as an explanatory memorandum for the Qur'an, providing the details for what the Qur'an states in general terms, and giving us guidance on how to implement the Qur'an in our lives. Thus obedience to Allah necessitates obedience to His messenger. Indeed Allah commands us: *Whatever the messenger gives you, accept it, and whatever he forbids you, abstain from it.* (59: 7).

Thus the declaration means that Allah alone is the only God to be worshipped, that obedience to Him and submission to His law is an essential part of worshipping Him and that Muhammad, His messenger, is the one who has taught us how to worship Allah and conveyed to us His laws.

Anyone who makes this declaration is a Muslim. The Arabic wording of the declaration is: "Ashhadu An La Ilaha Illallah, Wa Ashhadu Anna Muhammadan Rasuluh." This translates as follows: "I testify that there is no God save Allah and I further testify that Muhammad is His messenger." Once the declaration is made by anyone, in full consciousness of its significance, then the person making it is one of the Muslims. Anyone who is embracing Islam is strongly recommended, however, to have full abstinence, that is, a complete bath at the time he makes the declaration. This is a gesture which symbolizes washing off all one's past sins. For no Muslim is held accountable for any thing he or she did before adopting Islam.

When one becomes a Muslim one is required to do all the things Muslims do and to refrain from all those which they are not allowed to do. This should not prove difficult as many people do observe Islamic teachings throughout the world. It requires, however, a fair measure of determination to conduct one's life in the manner which is sure to win Allah's pleasure.

To give a brief sketch of what is required of a Muslim we mention the five pillars of Islam. The first is the declaration we have already mentioned. Second, a Muslim must attend regularly to his prayers. These have a specific form which must be learned. A Muslim prays five times every day of his life.

Islam in perspective

What the Qur'an teaches

In the name of Allah, the beneficent, the merciful

O You who believe! Remain conscious of Allah and let every soul look to what it sends ahead for the morrow. And, once again, be conscious of Allah, for Allah is fully aware of all that you do. Be not as those who are oblivious of Allah, and whom He therefore causes to be oblivious of themselves. Such are the evil-doers. Not equal are those who are destined for the fire and those who are destined for paradise: the ones who are destined for paradise are truly the ones who shall be victorious.

This may sound like quite a heavy burden but hardly any practicing Muslim finds that prayers interfere with his work. What is required here is a reasonable measure of adaptability. Prayers are invaluable in maintaining one's consciousness of Allah and reminding one of the need to obey His commandments at all times and in all situations.

Third, Muslims fast from dawn to dusk throughout the lunar month of Ramadhan. When they fast Muslims abstain from food, drink and sex. Fasting is a great exercise of self-discipline and it is greatly beneficial to the individual and to the community.

Fourth, Muslims are required to give away every year a portion of their wealth, not less than 2.5 percent, to the poor. Eight classes of people may benefit of this tax which is termed *Zakah* or purifying alms. When we remember that this taxation is imposed on capital, not on income, we realize that the amount raised is substantial and it goes a long way to wipe out poverty.

The last pillar of our religion is pilgrimage, which must be performed by those who have the physical and financial ability to perform it. The requirement is to offer pilgrimage at least once in a lifetime.

A Muslim must also refrain from all sinful acts such as murder, adultery, drinking, lying, stealing and all corruption generally. Islam is a religion of serious morality and strict discipline. So, a Muslim must always weigh his actions before doing them and avoid all kinds of sin. Should he yield to temptation and commit a sin he should repent and pray for Allah's forgiveness.

According to Islam all Muslims are equal and should be treated equally. The Prophet emphasized this on many occasions and Allah lays down the only criterion of distinction among Muslims. He says in the Qur'an: *The noblest among you, in the sight of Allah, is the most God-fearing.* (49: 13) Yet people may not live up to this very important requirement. Family or tribal or national considerations may lead to different modes of discrimination. Islam shuns such practices. It is often the case, however, that people's practices fall short of their ideals. We have, therefore, to distinguish between what Islam lays down and what Muslims do.

A point which is often raised by readers is that which concerns one's family. This is a tricky question which I hope to tackle next week. Allah willing.

Arab News welcomes questions about Islam, its principles and practices. Answer by Nur religious editor will be published in this section every Friday. Please address your letters to: the Religious Editor, P.O. Box 4556, Jeddah, Saudi Arabia.

Life of the Prophet - 46

Good news from Madinah

Mus'ab ibn Umair, the Prophet's emissary to Madinah returned shortly before the next pilgrimage season. He reported to the Prophet the good news that there was hardly an Arab household in Madinah which does not have one or more Muslims among its members. He further reported on the composition of the population of Madinah.

Mus'ab's report was carefully considered to establish whether Madinah was a suitable place for the establishment of the first Islamic state. The first covenant the Prophet made with the people of Madinah required them simply to live as Muslims by themselves. It did not include any provisions for dealing with other communities and states. Now it was time for a decision on this aspect.

On the basis of the information supplied by Mus'ab the Prophet recognized that apart from the Muslims, Makkah and Madinah, there would be two groups of people in Madinah: first, the Arabs who had not yet joined Islam. These had their own divisions but there was scope for Islam to make further inroads in their ranks. There would obviously remain a hard core of resistance of Islam but it should not pose much of a problem as time was on the side of Islam.

Second, there were the Jews whose attitude to the new religion was not yet known. Muslims must be prepared for all eventualities on that front but they should not be the first to take a hostile attitude. They should strive to establish good neighborly relations.

The Muslim community would also have an economic problem which would need urgent attention, as the immigrants from Makkah would arrive in Madinah without any money. They would need housing and jobs.

The Prophet also recognized that the new

state to be established in Madinah was bound to face an immediate external threat. *Quraysh* in Makkah was not expected to sit idle while the new challenge to its supremacy in Arabia developed and took shape.

The Prophet was definitely aware of all this when Mus'ab reported to him on his mission in Madinah. We can feel his awareness in his careful planning of his future steps over the next year or so. The immediate decision was, however, taken then. This was that Madinah offered a suitable place for the establishment of the state of Islam. The first step was to meet with his new followers. A meeting was fixed for the last night of pilgrimage at Akaba. This was probably the most important meeting in the thirteen years of Islam in Makkah.

The meeting was attended by seventy-three men and two women from Madinah. In the middle of the night, when everyone was fast asleep those believers came out of their tents quietly. They came to their appointment in ones and twos. The Prophet was the only one to attend the meeting from the Makkah Muslims.

The Prophet apparently had to confide his plans to someone very close to him. This was his uncle, Al-Abbas, who was not yet a Muslim. Al-Abbas was the only non-Muslim to attend the meeting. He wanted to be sure that his nephew was on a safe course.

Al-Abbas's presence and his speech which opened the proceedings of the meeting must be seen in the light of the future developments of relations between the state yet to be born and *Quraysh*, the master tribe in Arabia. What was about to take place was a radical realignment of loyalties. In the tribal society of Arabia that was very serious indeed.

We must, however, leave the proceedings of that very important meeting until next week.

(To be continued next Friday.)

Misinformation corrected

U.S. Outreach Program teaches about Mideast

By Kay Hardy Campbell

CAMBRIDGE, Mass. — Increased interest in the Middle East on the part of American elementary and secondary school teachers has brought about the flourishing of a network of Middle East Outreach Programs. The programs, established in 1974 with funding from the U.S. Office of Education, channel university resources and expertise to their communities. All over the U.S., 12 major universities now house these programs in their Middle Eastern Studies Centers.

One of the most successful centers is housed at Harvard University's Center for Middle Eastern Studies. Barbo Ek, Director of the Harvard Outreach Program, believes that her program has been successful in helping teachers by "...giving information about the human element in the Middle East...The program makes the Middle East come alive to them somehow..."

The emphasis of Harvard's Outreach Program is on improving the information available to American teachers, to reverse the stereotyping and misinformation found in the teaching materials of American schools concerning the Middle East.

The program's success is partly a result of the growing interest on the part of teachers for accurate information on the Middle East. The vast resources available at Harvard, and the special programs designed by Ms. Ek and her staff also have contributed to the Outreach success.

In 1974 the Outreach Program at Harvard began by sponsoring a series of day-long

workshops for local elementary and secondary school teachers. These gatherings dealt with one topic in detail, using films, guest speakers from Harvard and public communities, and the latest written materials available.

Several seminars (limited to 20 participants), are still held yearly. Topics have covered everything from the basic geography of the Middle East to topics of current interest, such as, "Perceptions of the Arab World".

To cope with rising interest, the Outreach Program established a Teaching Resources Center in 1978. Housed at the Center for Middle Eastern Studies at Harvard, the Resource Center now consists of a growing lending library, numerous cultural artifacts, and a substantial multi-media materials collection.

The Teaching Resource Center publishes a quarterly newsletter which circulates free of charge nationwide to 1,250 pre-collegiate teachers, Middle East specialists and businessmen. The newsletter reviews newly published materials about the Middle East of interest to teachers. A cultural theme of interest is usually featured at length. A recent newsletter explained the village architectural design principles of several Arab countries. Another discussed cultural interaction between Crusaders and Arabs in medieval times. Most information is geared toward teachers looking for new ways to teach their students about the Middle East.

Addressing this need specifically, the newsletters share ideas about possible class discussion topics, special projects and activities. Other organizations with resources available to teachers are listed.

A yearly film series is sponsored by the Teaching Resource Center and shown at Harvard. The series, free of charge and open to the public, this fall featured films on family life in the Middle East.

Inquiries from the surrounding community are answered with individual attention. Librarian of the Resource Center, Catherine Jones, records requests for information coming from all areas across the country, answering to its popularity.

Should the volume of requested resources and information continue to increase, the Teaching Resource Center may find itself expanding. But until now the small size and intimacy of the operation has been one of its best points, explained Ms. Ek. To continue to offer high quality resource and reference information is the program's chief aim.

LIBRARY RESOURCES: Books on both the Middle East and the Islamic religion are included in the Middle East Resources Center Library.

Are 'gas' charges being used politically?

By Brian Eads

HONG KONG (LOS) — Washington's moral indignation over the supposed gassing of anti-Soviet Mujahideen in Afghanistan, anti-Vietnamese Hmong hill tribesmen in Laos, and anti-Vietnamese Khmer Rouge guerrillas in Cambodia has less to do with bearing it concern than with the possibility of a propaganda coup.

Secretary of State Alexander Haig announced in September that "firm evidence" of the use of chemical weapons had been obtained, traces of the deadly toxin trichothecenes, generally known as T2, on a leaf and stem brought out of Cambodia.

Since then the State Department has announced positive traces of the toxin in three new samples obtained from Laos and Cambodia.

The presence of T2, which is extracted from a fungus that occurs on cereals, was said to explain previously inexplicable symptoms among its "victims" and to establish the Soviet Union as the source of the chemical weapons. The fungus, said the State Department, was "not native to warm climates such as South-East Asia."

The findings were much the same as those offered by American journalist Sterling Seagrave in his book *Yellow Rain* which appeared in the United States a month after

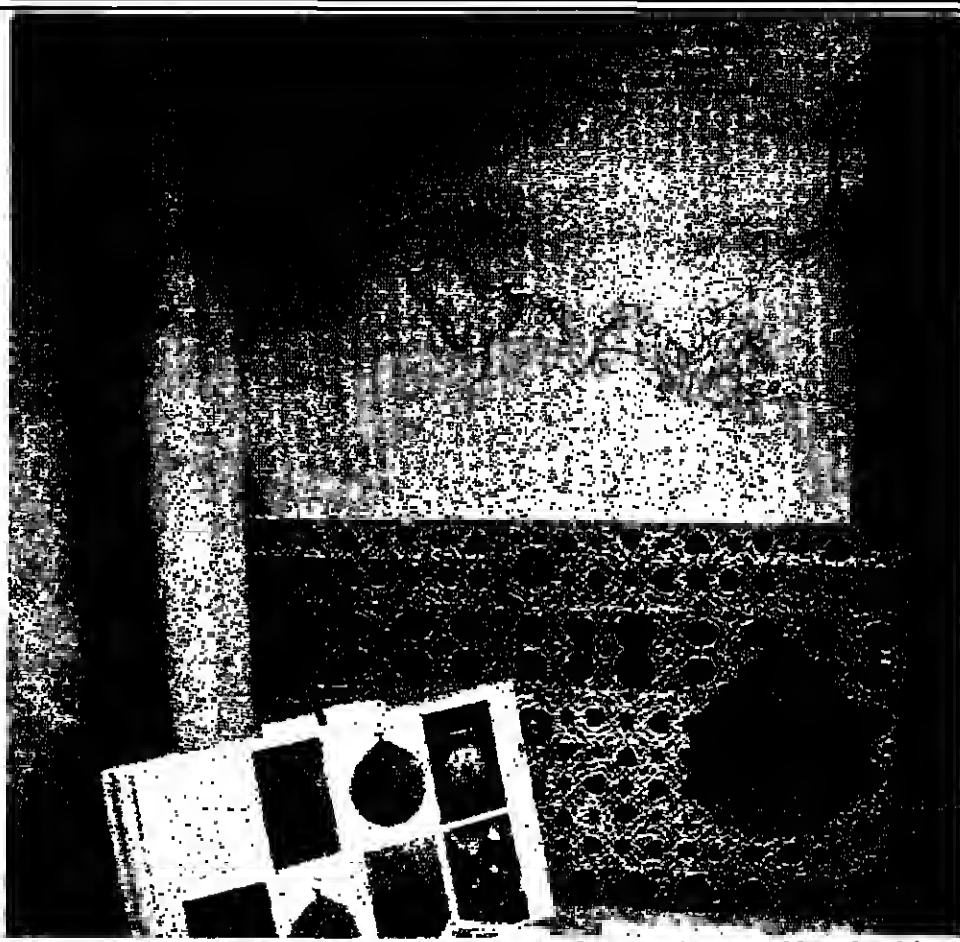
Haig leveled his charges. If the forced and unnecessary efforts to generate drama and a tendency to prevent hypothesis as fact are discounted, the book makes for harrowing reading.

Seagrave moves from the trenches of Ypres in 1915 to the Hindu Kush in 1979, by way of the Yemen, Bulgarian exile Georgi Markov and 6,300 dead sheep in Skull Valley, Utah, the victims of accidental U.S. Air Force spraying of VX nerve gas.

He establishes to his satisfaction that Soviet forces or "client" forces have employed chemical weapons on remote battlefields for almost 20 years, that among those killed were some 20,000 Hmong and an entire battalion of Chinese troops invading Vietnam in 1979, and that "what we have been witnessing has been the wholesale field testing of an impressive array of Soviet war agents and poisons on human beings from the Middle East to the Far East."

The Soviet Union, he says, has the best-equipped chemical attack and defense forces of any modern army, with some 100,000 specialists, a chemical battalion for every division, and 10 percent of all rockets, artillery rounds, mortar shells and bombs filled with chemical agents. Meanwhile front-line NATO troops do not know how to put on a gas mask.

A United Nations team which visited



REFERENCE AREA: The Middle East Resources Center at Harvard adds authenticity to its learning programs by providing teachers and students with a variety of reference books and maps shown here.

Workforce outgrowing jobs

Jakarta 36% unemployment is an increasing problem

By Warief Djajanto

JAKARTA (Dephnews) — For every 15 Indonesians who enter the labor force annually, two do not find any job. If this situation lingers into 1984-89, the Indonesian Economists Association (ISEI) said that two million will be unemployed in that five-year period, swelling further the ranks of the country's unemployed.

According to the Department of Manpower and Transmigration, the labor force last year totaled about 59 million in this country of 147 million. This workforce grows at the annual rate of 3.1 percent but the number of jobs rises by only 2.7 percent.

A great number of those looking for jobs are women. In 1961, women in the Indonesian workforce totaled 9.6 million. By 1971, they increased to 14.2 million and

jumped further to 17.1 million in 1976.

ISEI says that by the end of 1989, the workforce is expected to reach 71.7 million. Added to the unemployed will be the underemployed workers — those who take lesser jobs than they are qualified for. Even today, economists estimate that 36 percent of the labor force are unemployed, making it the country's central employment problem.

The roots of the country's employment problems, the government says, are essentially structural and long-term in nature. The country's high population growth rate results in a high number of people entering the job market annually.

More crucial is that more than 50 percent of the labor force is under 24 year old. Their lack of skill and experience often disqualifies young Indonesians in landing any job.

The economic development of the country also seems to be against the solution of its own employment problems. While vast farmlands await and natural resources exist in other islands, more than 60 percent of the country's development is concentrated in Java.

Yet, the potential of islands outside of Java to absorb surplus labor is immense. Economists say if that potential continues to remain just that — as a potential — the effects of unemployment would be greater.

Transmigration is the key to unlock this potential, to employing the unemployed. "But the pattern of transmigration based on agriculture is no longer valid," says prof. Otto Sumarwoto, director of the Center of Ecological Studies, University of Padjadjaran in Bandung.

What is happening to the traditional farmer transmigration is a repetition of what is happening in Java — farmlands decrease in size as they are divided through the generations.

Sumarwoto and others are now advocating a transmigration pattern based on industrialization. "The combination of large sources of energy and raw materials outside Java is a major potential to cultivate industry," he says.

However, Sumarwoto acknowledges that large amounts of investment and training are required. "But if the pattern of industrial transmigration succeeds, many jobs could be created," he said. "This would induce spontaneous transmigration in large numbers."

Avoiding Americanization

'Greening of Rome' program accelerated

By Louis B. Fleming

ROME, (LAT) — The "greening of Rome" is being accelerated in an effort to prevent asphalt and concrete from displacing what is left of the gardens and open fields that once characterized the center of the city.

More areas given over to nature are needed to satisfy "a physiological and psychological need of citizens," Luigi Celestre Angrisani, the city commissioner in charge of gardens and parks, said.

Angrisani's office is dominated by a giant azalea that was in full flower the other day, its delicate pink blossoms a happy distraction from the dismal view of one of those raw sections of Rome that proves his point about the need for open space.

Last year, Rome added 2,500 acres of open space and Angrisani told a visitor: "That was the year of acquisition. This year we want to develop that land into parks and gardens."

Rome has only about 87 square feet of park and garden area per capita, he said, about one-third of the green space per capita in London.

Rome has 900 miles of tree-lined streets, but there is little green in the historic center except for the Villa Borghese, now Rome's principal park, and the park-like setting of the Roman Forum and Palatine. The greening process is going to be applied where the emperors walked as well as to the vast housing areas that have developed outside the walls of the city in this century.

The most sensational application of flower power was the transmutation overnight — literally overnight — of the Piazza Venezia. When Romans awakened Dec. 5, three

beds of cyclamens and pansies bloomed amid luxuriant lawns in a half-acre at the center of the piazza where frenzied crowds once cheered Benito Mussolini as he spoke from the balcony of the stark, 15th-century Palazzo Venezia, which overlooks the piazza.

A crew of 50 gardeners had worked in shifts through the night to achieve the transformation, with minimum effect on traffic. The lawns came in rolls. The plants came from one of the city's two nurseries.

"We are dealing in some ways with a historic development that restores to the piazza the role and the function of a peaceful meeting place to teach the recovery of the love for nature," Angrisani told a reporter at the time.

Now he has even more ambitious plans. The famed spring display of azaleas on the Spanish steps will spill over this year to two nearby piazzas and into the streets as well.

And Bruno Vergari, Rome's director of public gardens, is already planning how to landscape the area between the Imperial and the Roman forums after removal of the street that divides them.

There is resistance to that plan. The street is one of the city's major arteries, and many Romans think the use of the street more important than beautifying the city.

"But it will happen," Angrisani said. "We are going to win."

Already the street is closed on Sundays and holidays to accustom strolling Romans to the joy of not sharing the area with cars, trucks, buses, motorcycles and scooters.

"Fools, imbeciles," Angrisani muttered, referring to those who favor parking spaces over potted plants.



GIANT SNOWMAN: This year's exceptionally cold winter has set many records and enabled this snowman measuring 15 feet (4.5 meters) to be constructed in Munchen, Germany. The little girl shown here is dwarfed by the size of the snowman.

Palestinian ready to meet challenges

Pulmonary therapy labs success for Hatem Saqr

By Jeannette Garrett
Houston Bureau

HOUSTON — Traveling to the United States on a small passenger boat on the first day of 1961, 20-year-old Hatem Saqr was befriended by an American passenger who corrected his English and offered him advice on what to eat — hamburgers, and how to make it in America — work hard and be honest.

It was advice well-taken. Respiratory and pulmonary therapy labs owned by him and his brother Saqr al Saqr in Houston and Dallas currently gross about \$1.3 million a year.

Like many success stories, Saqr's followed a circuitous route of changed ambitions and not a few frustrations.

His particular path began in Salame, a small Palestinian town near Jaffa. Saqr was 8 years old when his father loaded him and three younger brothers, along with the family furniture, into the back of a truck for the move from their hometown to a refugee camp in Jericho. For a year they lived in a tent until Saqr's father, who became the camp's *mukhtar* (leader), built a four-room mud hut.

For all its deprivation, life in the refugee camp presented children with at least one benefit — the schools set up by the United Nations Relief and Works Agency. Ironically, parents in the camp made education a paramount objective for their children because of the Jewish population in Jordan. "For us to be able to understand them and deal with them we had to have this kind of education," Saqr says.

He was a good student — "not first, but giving the first one good competition" — so it wasn't unrealistic of him to think he could become a doctor. His parents wanted him to study medicine in a smaller country like Turkey and then go to the United States, but a friend from the same refugee camp was studying at the University of Houston and Saqr came to America despite his parents' wishes. When he arrived in Houston in 1961 he had the \$750 then required of foreign students entering the country, plus an extra \$75, and "all the ambition in the world."

That ambition remained intact as long as his money lasted, through one semester as a biology/pre-med student. But when the money ran out he had to take a part-time job as an orderly at Methodist Hospital in the Houston Medical Center.

"I hated myself," he says of that period. "My ambition completely demolished. Everybody orders you around and psychologically it was counter to what I thought of myself. And then I began to feel helpless. What else could I do? I wanted to survive. I wanted to get my education."

After six months, he was ready to do anything else — even wash dishes in the hospital's cafeteria. Instead he was offered a job as cashier, working the 7 p.m. to 4:30 a.m. shift for a dollar an hour. He still considers it his biggest promotion.

Realizing that he couldn't keep up with his pre-med courses and support himself financially, he reluctantly decided to work full time. When he did, he gave up his ambi-

tion to become a doctor, but he had no ready substitute.

During the next few years, when he could manage it, he went to school off and on, changing his major more than once. It was clear that education would have to take a back seat to employment.

Through a friend he learned that a department of respiratory therapy was opening at Methodist Hospital and he was able to get a job as a respiratory therapy technician, basically a training position. After three years he was made a shift supervisor and the advancement made up for the lack of progress in his academic career. Soon afterwards, he picked up certificates as a respiratory therapist and a cardio-pulmonary technologist.



HATEM SAQR: The 41-year-old Palestinian-American is shown here inside the office of the respiratory therapy lab he has owned and operated for the last 11 years. He lived in a Jericho refugee camp for 11 years before coming to the United States.

Camping offers unique outdoor opportunities

Basic provisions, equipment ensure a safe outing

By David Barnes

JEDDAH — Newly arrivals in Saudi Arabia and those who have recently discovered the unique opportunities this country has to offer for the outdoor enthusiast, a suitable vehicle immediately becomes a priority. Proper preparation is essential in setting up for camping and trips further afield.

Choosing a suitable vehicle, like choosing a boat or wife is fraught with difficulties. One has to combine good looks, economy, comfort and reliability — not to mention a touch of pace. However, if your budget allows, go for the "wolf in sheep's clothing" — the dressed-up jeep. For day to day driving in the city, you need a touch of class. And consider that camping trips made from Jeddah can frequently cover 500 kms. over a weekend and most of this on asphalt. Four-wheel drive is essential, but the overriding factor is to be able to cruise at high speeds over long distances in safety and comfort, and to arrive back after the weekend feeling relaxed — but not in a state of exhaustion.

In Jeddah there is a competitive range of such vehicles offering four-wheel drive, high ground clearance, a powerful engine, power-assisted brakes and steering and plenty of storage space. And with contoured seats, A/C and stereo equipment, you have the essential degree of comfort.

The first job on acquiring your vehicle is to protect it from the rigors of the climate — not to mention camping. Before you take delivery, ask the showroom to "weather-proof" it. This is particularly important on coastal regions where protection is necessary from corrosive salts. This process involves spraying the engine compartment, the underneath, doors, sills etc. with a sealant that dries hard to form a protective coating.

All vehicles should be washed down after each trip over salt pan. The local car washes provide a pressure hose service that cleans caked mud and salt from the under surfaces (SR40). Paintwork and chrome can be protected with one of the new liquid polymer sealants. Wax polish is fine for developing arm muscles — these sealants are easy to apply, give months of protection per application and dry to a hard gloss finish.

There is no escaping from mud and sand, so all carpeted areas should be covered with extra rubber mats. Car vacuum cleaners are not really powerful enough, so a stiff brush and dust pan are a good idea.

The rear storage area is prone to spills; milk, water, fuel, so it is wise to line this space with canvas or some other protective material. Have this material cut so that there is one and a half meters spare at each end. When fully loaded, these flaps can be pulled together over the top of the gear and securely lashed down. This system ensures that gear doesn't get thrown about during bumpy driving. In addition, sandwich four large foam rubber sheets around gear. This protects interior trim and keeps down irritating noises. This will also keep the investment in good shape.

As a clear blue sky and relentless sun can be expected most of the year some sort of shade is needed. A canvas awning is preferable to a tent. It is simple to erect, available cheap locally, and being open to any cooling breeze is ideal for the summer.

With the awning a roof rack is needed. A cheap and effective system is to buy two aluminum car racks and permanently join them together by means of bolted "fish plates". Set



OUTFITTED FOR CAMPING: This four-wheel drive vehicle is fully equipped for long-range camping with a roof rack, canvas cover and tie-downs.

the rack low — to keep the center of gravity of your vehicle down, and don't overload as this adversely affects handling — particularly in cross winds.

Awning can be bought "off the peg" from the tent makers in the souk, downtown Jeddah, located near the old hospital. A translator is necessary if you want an awning made up to your own specifications. Be prepared to bargain. They also sell bamboo poles, long steel pegs and guy ropes with metal inners. The awning can be permanently shackled to the roof rack at one side. Bulky bamboo poles take a lot of room, while eight, two meter tubular poles that "break" in half provide ease of handling. A bolt at the top end fits through a brass eye in the awning. The guy rope then slips over the bolt, then in turn a flat washer

and locking nut. In this way the awning is kept from blowing off the poles. The final touch is a central two and a half meter pole, with four air vents cut round it.

The vents let air spill out of the awning thus making it more stable. And they allow the all important washer and locking nut to be fitted without someone having to trample over the top of the half erected awning.

The awning is folded away on the roof rack, along with poles, camp beds, folding tables etc. Tent makers can also make a rubberised cover that protects the awning from destructive sunlight. It cuts out that flapping noise when driving at high speeds, and as it streamlines the load, there is little danger of anything being torn away by the slipstream. As an extra precaution, three rubber "spiders" com-

plete with plastic claws are stretched across the rack, a system which seems to work very well.

Before going out and equipping your vehicle from scratch, the following hints may save you some time, trouble and money.

Buy a good shovel and an extra-heavy hammer. The shovel will be needed to dig yourself out of trouble. The hammer will drive pegs into all but the worst ground and is better for breaking up firewood than an axe.

Having no room for a sophisticated barbecue, the alternative is an open fire on a large grill. As this grill will get greasy, it should have its own canvas cover or hessian sack. Wood fires are perfect but slow to light — unless you use kerosene. We carry kerosene in a red, one gallon petrol tank, complete with plastic pourer. This lights three to four fires.

Cooking utensils should be bought specifically for camping as they tend to get black or lost, and include an oven glove. Cutlery, crockery, and pots should all be kept separate.

It pays to buy a light, metal chest — again from the souk, and fill it with basics: salt, pepper, sugar, sauces, herbs, tea etc. These can be bought in reasonable bulk and repackaged where necessary into small, strong, leak-proof containers — and relabeled. Soundproofing is necessary in the form of foam rubber lining, not forgetting the lid.

Still with food, buy a large freezer box than you really need. Or better still, two: one for water and soft drinks, the other for food. Twenty liter water carriers and several large flasks are useful for hot tea on chilly mornings when it seems the kettle will never boil.

Sleeping bags are a must in the mountains in winter and some sort of woollen headgear to combat the cold. "Long life" batteries are certainly worth the expense. We have already mentioned a folding table, and lounge beds are more versatile than deck chairs as they can be slept on.

SELF-SERVICING DO-IT-YOURSELF CAR MAINTENANCE

SIGNS & SYMPTOMS

YOUR CAR CAN OVERHEAT FOR A NUMBER OF REASONS INCLUDING WRONG PLUGS, PRE-IGNITION, OVER-ADVANCED IGNITION AND SLACK FAN BELT (SEE SELF-SERVICING NOS. 1, 3 & 7). IT CAN ALSO BE AN IN-EFFICIENT COOLING SYSTEM.

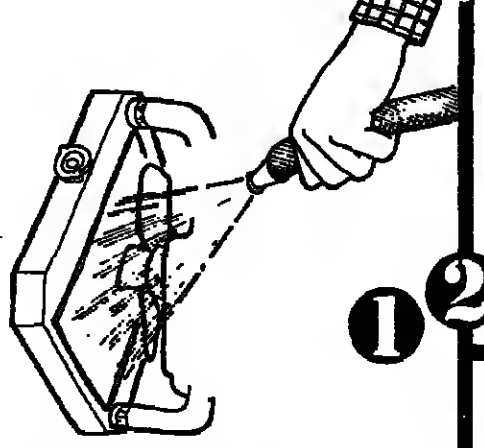
AIR PASSES THROUGH THE RADIATOR COOLING THE METAL HONEYCOMB AND THE WATER (COOLANT) PUMPING THROUGH IT.

AN INEFFICIENT RADIATOR MAY BE—
① PREVENTING AIR COOLING THE HONEYCOMB IF IT IS BLOCKED WITH INSECTS AND ROAD FILTH. OR
② STOPPING THE FREE-FLOW OF WATER BY A BUILD UP OF SCALE AND DEPOSIT INSIDE.

OR BOTH ① & ②.

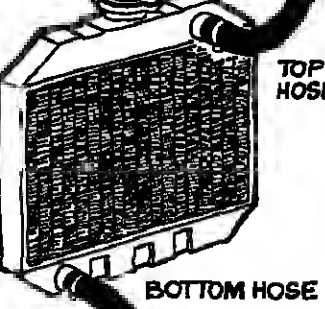
WRITTEN & DRAWN BY BILL CALDWELL

THE RADIATOR



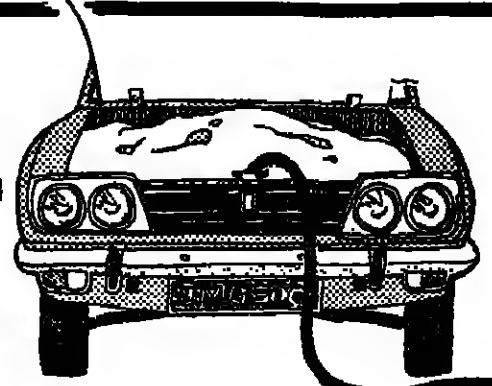
COVER THE ENGINE WITH A PLASTIC SHEET. AND HOSE THE RADIATOR THROUGH FROM BEHIND. YOU CAN TEST THE EFFECT BY SHINING A LAMP THROUGH FROM BEHIND. FOR STUBBORN RUST OR GREASE, BRUSH ON A SOLVENT AND HOSE.

CAP



FOR REALLY HEAVY FOULING, BEFORE BACK-FLUSHING DRIVE FOR A FEW MILES WITH A WASHING SODA SOLUTION (OR FLUSHING MIXTURE) IN THE SYSTEM. BUT ONLY IF YOUR RAD. IS SOUND.

DRAIN THE RAD. AND FLUSH THROUGH, BUT FOR STUBBORN DIRT AND SCALE, BACK FLUSH. CONNECT THE GARDEN HOSE TO THE RAD'S BOTTOM HOSE AND TURN ON FULL PRESSURE. A PIECE OF CYCLE INNER TUBE FITTED TO THE TOP HOSE WILL HELP DIRECT THE DIRTY WATER AWAY.



Chairman supports antibodies

How to battle cancer? Advisors views differ

By Harry Nelson

LOS ANGELES (LAT) — Dr. Armand Hammer, the 83-year-old globetrotting millionaire oilman, knew within a couple of weeks after being named chairman of President Reagan's three-man cancer advisory panel last November just how he wanted to fight the war on cancer.

But Hammer's approach, and the reaction it has generated in the scientific community, are indicative of the dispute over how the United States — 10 years after the war on cancer began — should battle the disease that kills 420,000 Americans annually.

Hammer wants the war on cancer to focus its efforts on the study of monoclonal antibodies, the producer of a new technology that involves creating a hybrid cell known as a hybridoma. While medical researchers recognize monoclonal antibodies as being potentially valuable for diagnosing and treating cancer, some stiffen at the thought of a non-scientist — especially a businessman like Hammer — setting their priorities.

Also, they are fearful that too much premature publicity about such antibodies might raise public expectations too high, resulting in a backlash that could adversely affect future funding.

Hammer, however, has not been dissuaded by such reaction.

And, typical of the energetic approach he takes to any problem he tackles, Hammer also has launched a whirlwind of activity centered around the subject of hybridomas, all of it financed with Hammer foundation funds.

Among them: — Establishment of a cancer panel office in Washington — the first it has ever had — staffed by six persons whose chief function is to compile scientific data on hybridomas.

— Creation of awards amounting to \$2 million to be given to scientists who advance the war on cancer. One million dollars will go to a scientist "who achieves a cure for cancer similar to that discovered by Dr. Jonas Salk with the Polio vaccine." Another million will be awarded at the rate of \$100,000 a year for 10 years to scientists who further cancer research.

— Announcement of an international symposium to be held next month at the Salk Institute in La Jolla, Calif., and attended by invitees selected for knowledge of hybridoma research.

Calling hybridoma research a breakthrough, Hammer said in a recent interview that he intended to focus his personal attention and the attention of the President's Advisory Panel on developing hybridoma technology for its cancer applications.

He said he thought the past efforts of the panel could be improved by "implanting business discipline" into its deliberations. "I feel I can help by directing money to fields that could give the quickest results," he said.

Hammer's enthusiasm has not been matched, however, by the two medical members of the president's panel, which was established at the onset of the war on cancer in 1971 to appraise the national effort, and to report on the progress or deficiencies of the \$1 billion-a-year program.

The primary role of the panel has been to serve as an interface between the National Cancer Institute and the White House and Congress. The National Advisory Board, a 17-member group of scientists and non-scientists, also has been involved in some of those functions. It chiefly deals with research, however.

When the panel met last December, Dr.

Harold Amos, a Harvard microbiologist, made it clear that the panel as a whole is not taking part in Hammer's determination to single out hybridomas for war-on-cancer emphasis.

"They are still speculative," Amos said. "There is still a question of (their promise)." Dr. Bernard Fisher, a University of Pittsburgh surgeon who is an authority on breast cancer, also echoed Amos' sentiment.

Observers point out that regardless of which course the panel advises, its decision is not by itself going to determine the future of cancer research. Nevertheless, the issue of how to wage the cancer fight is one faced by the entire national cancer program bureaucracy, and thus the panel's influence can carry a considerable amount of weight.

In turn, Hammer's lobbying for hybridomas cannot be taken lightly.

The National Cancer Act, which launched the war on cancer in 1971 under President Nixon, said that the panel should be composed by three persons, appointed by the president, "who, by virtue of their training, experience and background are exceptionally qualified to appraise the national cancer program."

The law says that at least two of the members of the panel shall be scientists or physicians. Their term is for three years.

Only tumors are hit by antibodies

By Harry Nelson

LOS ANGELES (LAT) — The characteristics of monoclonal antibodies that gives them such great potential is their specificity. Unlike anti-cancer drugs or radiation, which strike normal cells as well as malignant ones, there is reason to believe that monoclonal antibodies have the capacity to hit only tumors.

All body cells, including cancer cells, have markers on their surface called antigens. There are hundreds of thousands of different antigens, with each type of cell having a complement different from other types of cells.

Antibodies are tiny protein substances that are manufactured by white blood cells to protect the organism against foreign material such as bacteria, viruses or cancer cells. The body's immunological system makes the antibodies attack against those agents — but usually not against one's own cells — by recognizing the foreignness of antigens on their surfaces.

Only a few of the hundreds of thousands of antigens on a cancer-cell surface are believed to distinguish it from normal cells. Until the invention of hybridomas, it was not possible to harvest large amounts of antibodies made against a single antigen.

Instead, researchers who were looking for tumor-specific antigens were confronted with a complex mixture of thousands of different antibodies against an equal number of antigens.

A hybridoma combines a lymphocyte's capacity to make a specific antibody with a tumor cell's capacity to live forever.

French water officials set up pilot programs

PARIS (RFI) — Every year, an average of 450 billion cubic meters of water fall on France in the form of rain. Most of it evaporates and the rest — 180 billion cubic meters — fills rivers and lakes or soaks into the ground to feed underground streams and waterways. Only half of this is useful economically, but it is more than is needed, for France uses only 27 billion cubic meters in its national consumption, of which only 3.6 billion are distributed in the form of drinking water.

France is thus very rich in water. Its only real worry — but sometimes a big one — is that this drinking water should be of the finest quality and never likely to damage the health of the people who drink it. Water which has no pathogenic germs, which is colorless and perfectly fresh, without unpleasant taste or smell: these are a few of the criteria to which it must conform. This is where some consumers and some officials begin to be concerned

— by the generalized use of nitrate fertilizers in agriculture, and by industrial or urban pollution.

The percentage of nitrates in certain drinking water bas in fact reached a critical level. Even if the nitrates are relatively harmless themselves, their transformation in an adult's body results in the formation of cancerogenic substances; and, in the body of the newborn baby, they can cause serious blood complications.

Of course, remedies exist. In Paris particularly, the different water sources are carefully "dosed", so that one source of water with which is less polluted. Nitrates of industrial or urban origin can be combated at their very beginnings, in the factory or warehouse.

This is not possible for nitrate fertilizers: none of these partial solutions is satisfactory. Hence the interest of the research carried out over the last several years by France's two water-company giants, the Compagnie Generale des Eaux (C.G.E.) and the "Lyonnaise des Eaux". These two companies, after having explored various techniques (physico-chemical, use of ion-exchanging resins, etc.), have (each acting separately) gone into biotechnology: bacteria in the service of man.

The principle is simple: certain non-pathogenic bacteria are capable, if they are short of oxygen, of taking the oxygen from nitrates, thus freeing their nitrogen in the form of gas. The water is therefore filtered through clay which is inhabited by colonies of bacteria (in addition, these colonies must be "fed" with alcohol). When the bacteria have exhausted the oxygen from the polluted water, they attack that of the nitrates, thus purifying the water.

On this principle, the specialized subsidiaries of these two water companies have set up pilot installations in France. And they will soon be going into industrial exploitation of the method, for it will enable the concentration in nitrogen to be lowered to less than 25 milligrams per liter (whereas the official standard, though severe, tolerates up to 44 milligrams per liter). The cost of this purification method is not high, only one franc per cubic meter, and the market for the system is likely to be only one franc per cubic meter, and the market for the system is likely to develop very fast, for other and less technically-competent countries are interested, too.

Arab marriage: an exotic experience; combining formalities, festivities

By Hoda Sharabash
Riyadh Bureau

RIYADH, Saudi Arabia — The center of Islam and the Middle East. Its mention anywhere in the world is synonymous with urbanization, industrial development and most of all crude oil. The country has traveled a long way since the days of the Prophet substituting simple dwellings for the latest in modern architecture, camels for Cadillacs. And yet, despite all these changes, Saudi Arabia has been able to retain its religious and social customs; traditions that are over a thousand years old.

Marriage, an important base to any stable social structure, is still carried out in much the same way as it was many years ago. The ceremony in itself has not changed and only certain modifications have been added to the accompanying festivities. These modifications vary from region to region and house to house throughout the Kingdom, each with its own uniqueness and peculiarities.

When two families have agreed on a marriage between their children and the bride has given her own consent before a religious official, the *Fai-ha* or *Milkah* is recited. The *Milkah* is a ceremony in which the groom and the bride's father join hands and recite the first *Surah* from the Holy Quran. This is considered a seal on the agreement between them with God as their witness. After the religious formalities have been taken care of, the festivities begin.

An Arab marriage is an exotic experience, one very appealing to the senses. Unlike the West, the festivities take place in the late evening. The dark Arabian nights are lit with

gaiety and happiness and permeated with musky perfumes, the tinkling of music, and wafts of herbs and spices which linger on the desert air long after the ceremony is over.

In the Western region, these festivities last three days. The first day is called "Laylat Al Ghumrah" or "henna night." Finely ground Henna plant is mixed with water until it forms a thin reddish-green paste. This paste is spread throughout the bride's hair. It is also applied on both her hands and feet. The henna may simply be spread on her palms and fingertips or intricate designs may be drawn with it. The henna is left until it becomes semi-dry and then it is thoroughly washed out. This plant-based dye gives a dark auburn color to the hair, hands, and feet.

After the bride is done with the henna, she puts on a pink dress. Atop her head she wears a pink cloak which fastens directly beneath her chin. This cloak is covered with myriads of sequins in shades of pink and pearly white. The bride cannot wear any color except pink on this night. Four or five strands of pearls are attached to each side of this hood-like cloak near the ears and are draped over the bride's nose and lips until only her eyes are visible in the midst of all the sequins, silk and pearls. A party is given for the bride on this night which her female friends and relatives attend. A certain dance called "Bishi" is performed. This dance is a regional one done with silver gilded swords in time to a basic Arab drum beat.

The next night is the bride's wedding night. "Laylat Al Dokhla." The bride here wears a dress that is white and much resembles the dress a Western bride would wear. Music,

dancing and happiness fills the air and the festivities go on long after the bride and groom have departed.

The next day, "Al Sabaheyyah", both the bride's and the groom's families come over to the newlywed's house to bless the couple. A big feast is planned for this day called "Al Zaboon". Here again the bride wears a special dress. This dress is made of chiffon and satin and must be white trimmed with gold filigree in intricate designs and patterns. After the feast, the bride sits among her friends who dance and sing around her, full of wishes for happiness and a long and fruitful marriage.

The Central region of the Kingdom has its similarities and differences. Here too the custom of "henna night" is practiced one day before the wedding after the *Milkah* has been recited.

On her wedding night, the bride's hair is braided with beads and jewels interwoven with each strand. On top of her head the bride wears "al Hamma". This is a triangle-shaped ornament made of fine links of gold and jewels, the point of which rests on her forehead. Around her neck she wears "Al Rash Rash" or more popularly known as the "Mertaish". This necklace is made of five or six crescent shaped pieces of finely beaten gold inset with precious stones. The bride also wears "Al Kaf" on both her hands. "Al Kaf" is a gold bracelet with five strands of linked gold and jewels ending in five golden rings for each finger. When worn "Al Kaf" resembles a glove of gold without any fingers. The stones used for these ornaments range from amethyst, rubies, sapphires, topaz, opals and diamonds.

The bride in this region does not wear white on her wedding night. The color usually worn is pink or green. The guests all gather at the bride's house. The bride herself is dressed and left alone in a room, covered with a black veil. Her mother-in-law and her husband's aunt are the only people allowed to enter the room and greet her. Tea and coffee are served by a woman called "Al Rubayyah" who is constantly burning incense and the exotic aromas intermingle with the sound of drum beats and singing throughout the rooms. The groom bids his father goodbye and then enters the room where his bride has been waiting. His father must leave immediately after this. Al Rubayyah serves the couple coffee again which is a sign for the groom to take his bride to their new home. The festivities still go on for almost three hours. After that a dinner is served and then the guests go home.

The wedding ceremony in the Eastern Region lasts for three days as seen in the other two regions of the Kingdom, the bride cele-



WEDDING HEADRESS: 'Al Hamma' is a triangle-shaped ornament made of fine links of gold and jewels. Its point rests on the bride's forehead.

brates her forthcoming marriage the next day by holding a "henna night" for her friends and family. She wears an abaya which can be no other color but green. They spend their time dancing and singing.

On the day of the wedding, an Eastern version of a stag party is held for the groom in his own home. Meanwhile the bride is getting ready. Mashmoom leaves which greatly resemble mini tea leaves, are interwoven in her braided hair. The thobe-like dress she wears must be trimmed in red and gold. The thobe itself has a tremendous amount of gold gussets sewn on it. The bride in this region also wears the traditional Al Kaf, Al Hamma and the Mertaish.

A regional dance is done by the bride's friends to a song called "Al Mobarakayn". Only girls with very long hair can participate in this dance. The girls let their hair hang loose and sway their heads from side to side in time to the music.

It is well into the evening by now and the

groom is being escorted to his bride's house. His friends carry lanterns and burn incense singing popular songs while they walk him through the streets. This procession is called "Ashoury".

The groom enters the house with his father and brother only. The next step is called "Jalwa." The bride has been covered from head to toe in a green sheet embroidered in gold and is set before her groom. A sort of "battle" then goes on where the groom tries to remove her green sheet and the bride resists. Sometimes the bride is brought in wrapped in rugs. The groom finally succeeds and he then substitutes his own cloak for her green sheet; a symbol of his claim over her and his obligation to provide her with continual warmth and protection throughout their married life. The newlyweds then pray two "raka'ahs" together before they depart to ask God to bless their marriage.

The next day a gigantic feast called "Ijra" (bride's dinner) is held and, as is customary, song and dance highlight the happy occasion.

Cooks learn preparation of raw food

By Jim Abrams

TOKYO (AP) — Cutting through the curriculum can be a slippery task. But foreign and Japanese graduates of Tokyo's "Sushi university" find tuna-slicing and seaweed-wrapping are skills worth learning in a world hungry for Japan's raw fish and rice delicacies.

"We can't keep up with demand," said Hirokazu Takeuchi, a 27-year-old entrepreneur who founded the school two years ago to train Japanese for jobs in Sushi shops outside Japan. "Sushi restaurants are springing up everywhere around the world, and there is a dire shortage of chefs."

Sushi, for those who still haven't heard, is a concoction made of raw fish — any of a number of varieties — cut in bite-sized slabs and mounted atop dollops of boiled, vinegar-soaked rice, laced with a fiery green borsersdich called Wasabi and dipped in soy sauce.

Without the rice, it is called Sashimi. Either way it is Japan's gift to the culinary world, and evidently enjoys growing popularity abroad.

The 100 students in Takeuchi's professional course are all Japanese, heading for jobs in New York, Paris or Rio de Janeiro after a year of intensive schooling in the art of wedding rubbery octopus morsels to fragile rice balls and forming seaweed rolls topped with salmon eggs.

Since last April, Takeuchi also has offered weekly classes, in English, for foreigners seeking initiation into the mysteries of Sushi. There are now 55 students enrolled in the three-month course. A few are Japanese wanting to learn how to attack a shrimp without facing the rigors of a regular school.

The rest are outsiders with their own reasons for wanting to learn Sushi-making.

Restaurant consultant Ramon Toca, 26, said that in his home town of New York — where Sushi shops are said to outnumber French restaurants — knowing how to roll your own "makes you a star." He said he enrolled in the course because "you are not only learning a cuisine, but also a culture and language."

Few students in the international class expect to don the white uniforms, high-heeled clogs and rakish headbands of the professional Sushi chef. Many say they signed up simply because they like to eat it.

"I joined because I am very health-minded and Sushi is so good for you," said Marlene Tibbs, an Austrian native married to a California banker. Said Jean Pierre Richard, 26, a student from Paris: "I just like Sushi."

Students pay an enrollment fee of 10,000 yen (\$43) and 3,800 yen (\$16.50) for each of 12 lessons. They can eat their handiwork.

Although many Japanese think Sushi is an intrinsically Japanese food unpalatable to foreigners, the taste for raw fish is believed to have been learned in China during the first Tang Dynasty (618-906 A.D.). The word "Sushi" first appeared in Japanese records about 1,250 years ago.

The fish then was usually pickled because of a lack of refrigeration. Rice, in short supply in ancient Japan, was not added until around 1600 — and then only as a marinating agent. It was not until about 150 years ago that Japanese began to eat today's familiar Sushi of rice and fish.

As with most Japanese arts, Sushi masters claim their craft demands humility and mental discipline that requires three to five years to learn.

Females head many families

Women's projects create self-respect, creativity, incentive, income result

By Padma Edirisinghe

COLOMBO, (DN) — On her return from the People's Dispensary, Punchimani, a 43-year-old housewife from an interior village off the Kandy-Kurunegala road in Sri Lanka, stood absently reading an advertisement on the bulletin board of the Nation Builders' Office.

Nation Builders, a non-government social service organization geared to rural development, recently opened a women's branch. Its ad ran as follows:

"Any local handwork of rural women or associations of rural women will be accepted for sale at the Nation Builders' stall at the Esala Mela grounds. Preference will be given to imaginative work, utilizing local raw materials."

Although poor, her husband being an *ande* (landless) farmer, Punchimani could read the entire ad. Thanks to a literacy-conscious government, she shares her reading skill with roughly 70 percent of the Sri Lankan female population.

A month later, Punchimani's *handi-anas* or intricate kitchen wall hangers made of the local reed, *watakeiya*, sold like hot cakes at the Esala Mela, a grand carnival with exhibitions of agricultural products and handicrafts.

The *handi-anas*, with loops and pockets to hold various objects used in the kitchen, were not only useful but were also of artistic value. The brisk fingers of the woman, and her imagination roused from years of dormancy by the ad, had transformed the *watakeiya* reed into fancy shapes of bats, crocodiles, fish, cobras and shapely figures.

The sale brought Punchimani a neat 800 rupees (\$40). The raw mat materials were gathered for free from the wilds near her village and her only investment was pleasurable labor fired by creativity. For sure, the sum was substantial for a woman whose fingers were gnarled and whose back was bent prematurely from years and years of laboring on other people's land.

While concerned with diverse pursuits, non-governmental organizations or NGOs in Sri Lanka have one aim in common: to court the underprivileged woman, be she a city slum dweller or one toiling in the remotest rural area.

They teach the women skills, find markets for their produce, and disseminate information on family health, better nutrition, home gardening, substitute energy devices and other useful topics.

In return, they have found the women very responsive, especially since they are chiefly motivated by the interest of the children and the family.

The state, no less, now panders to the woman. Through the Women's Bureau, roads have been made such as improvement of the living conditions of female estate labor and fisherwomen on the coasts. Recently, the press carried photographs of female municipality workers in Colombo, teaching slum women to prepare nutritious meals from readily available ingredients, within the setting of a slum kitchen.

A cynic may scoff at the irritance of such attempts against the vastness of the hunger problem. But the poor woman knows that it is touching the core of the issue and she is receptive to what is imparted, which is in answer to her needs.

The Mahila Samithi which is one of the strongest women's organizations, the massive Sarvodaya movement, the Muslim Women's League organizations like the All Ceylon Buddhist Congress, the Christian Women's Association and even groups of elite educated females have joined the cause for the underprivileged woman.

The Freedom from Hunger campaign frequently holds seminars to train personnel for social service.

Certain schools, headed by female principals, have started projects for women in slum areas. An example is the Kola-Kande project in which mothers are taught to prepare congee from nutritious leaves like *gou-kola* and *penela* which grow everywhere.

An interesting discovery by a social worker is that in the slum areas, many families are headed by the females. It may be surmised that in some cases the pressure of fending for the family has become too much for the male and he disappears, leaving behind the wife who puts up the most heroic but pathetic battle for her children's survival.



CHINESE CHAMPLEVE ENAMEL: This goblet and plate depict Western women. The technique was popular during the reign of the Ch'ing Dynasty Emperor Ch'ien Lung (1736-1795). The technique of producing enamelware was introduced from the West and the Chinese made the fundamental change of directly applying a pattern to the vessel's surface, instead of using raised copper wire.

Drugs, vitamin deficiencies cause some symptoms

Doctors who presume ills are due to 'old age' are often wrong

By Sandy Rovner

WASHINGTON, (WP) — A woman in her 70s goes to her doctor. "My right knee hurts me something awful," she tells him. "Now, now," the doctor soothes. "I guess you just have to expect that at your age."

"Is that so," snaps the woman. "If that's the case, what happened to my left knee? It's just as old..."

Peter Lamy loves that story. "No patient," says the University of Maryland pharmacy professor, "should ever be satisfied when a physician says 'that's old age,' no matter the symptom."

Lamy, a Ph.D. department chairman at the University's School of Pharmacy and director of institutional pharmacy programs, is a specialist in the effect of drugs on an aging population. Too much, he believes, can go wrong and too little attention is being paid by the medical community.

People over 65 currently account for about 11 percent of the population of the United States. They use, according to the American Geriatrics Society, about one-third of its medications.

A lot of older people take more than one kind of medicine every day. Plus they often take a lot of things that they don't even think of as medication — antacids, cold and cough medicines, analgesics, vitamins, for example.

And there are too often occasions where those latter over-the-counter medications can interact with certain prescription drugs or the prescription drugs can interact with each other or with something the patient is eating, all or any of which can produce symptoms that some doctors may dismiss as being part and parcel of "old age."

As more and more of us are getting older and older, this state of affairs becomes less and less satisfactory.

People, notes Lamy, change in many ways as they get older, and their reactions to medicines change as well. He suggests that at least some of the so-called symptoms of aging may well be drug-induced vitamin deficiencies.

Many drugs can induce mental confusion in older patients, or, after years of apparently satisfactory use, a drug-induced vitamin deficiency may produce symptoms. "Like apathy, lethargy, restlessness, dizziness...we expect old people to be dizzy, to be somewhat confused. We don't know yet how many of them are affected (in this way) but the potential for underdiagnosis or misdiagnosis is there," Lamy says. "When, indeed, it may be a vitamin deficiency induced by chronic drug use."

Something that drives Lamy up the wall is to hear someone (often a physician) refer to "drug abuse among the elderly."

"The elderly," he maintains, "do not abuse drugs. It's either the pharmacist who dis-

penses it or the physician who prescribes it. I never hear older people say 'give me a pill.' I only hear, 'Why do I have to take so many pills?' We put the elderly into a shady category with all the other abusers..."

Here are some suggestions Lamy and his staff have provided for older patients and their families:

— Always tell a physician prescribing a new medicine everything else you are taking, down to your Tums.

— Try to fill all your prescriptions at the same pharmacy. Many pharmacists now keep computerized records of what drugs their customers are taking. They are the first line of defense against a dangerous interaction.

— Be sure that someone close to you knows exactly what medications you are taking. Your family or friends should have the name of someone to call if your behavior or condition changes. Toxic reactions can be arrested, even reversed, if recognized in time.

— Take the medicine exactly the way the physician instructs. If you do not understand, ask your pharmacist to go over it with you. If this interferes with your lifestyle or the medicine makes you feel sick, tell your doctor at once.

Lamy also worries about the thoughtlessness of the prescribing physician. He says, "I once asked a group of physicians about a new prescription analgesic that had just come on the market. About 75 percent said they had

reassuring you and keeping you on the tethers, at the same time, about the safety of the child's health. "There is nothing to worry about at all. It is not serious." You feel reassured. But here it comes now, but why couldn't you bring him sooner. Anyway, it will go in two days. It is important that you continue the treatment for seven days, otherwise there could be some complications."

The more you try to understand why the treatment should be continued for seven days if the disease goes after two days, the more mystified you become. There seems to be an occult relationship between the treatment for seven days and the disease. It is a matter of common observation, that the incubus of common cold leaves you in seven days if you have no treatment at all; and with the most complicated treatment it never goes in less than seven days.

Medicines, which require three doses a day are all right. But those six-hourly ones are terrible. No matter how you plan it, it is not possible to get a few hours continuous sleep — and the fear of not being able to get up at the right moment can become intense. You can't take any chances with antibiotics.

After a few days of intensive care and restless nights, you have a sigh of relief of seeing the child recover and the weather having achieved its desired change. Just when you feel reasonably sure that the things are O.K. and the weather is going to stay like this for a few days more, your body gives way. A friend, seeing you sick in bed sympathizes. "It is nothing but the weather. It's changing these days." Oh, nnt that, please, all over again!

Is your child sick? Blame the weather

By Y. Tahir

JEDDAH — "Sorry to hear that your child is sick again. It is the weather. It is changing these days. Take care." How very often you might have heard or used these words depending on the occasion. Be it an involuntary sneeze, an accidental or intentional cough, or burning eyes heavy with sleep, you are sure to hear this expression with mechanical regularity. This oft-repeated, trite remark is apparently not meant to convey anything in particular; but it can offer you a world of solace. It reassures you and absolves from any responsibility of getting your child in the sick state. You can conveniently forget your non-acts of negligence of your acts of indulgence; you can have an easy conscience over the late shows on the video which kept the children awake, and had them dozing all day. The weather is the real villain of the piece.

But the wonder is that the weather, if the health or lack of it in the children is any index, should keep changing all the year round. Kids have a strange propensity for becoming sick, just when you least expect it. No amount of control will keep them under control. Kids are kids, you know. They become ill whenever some change blows with the wind.

You would have thought, rather hoped, that the long changing weather had completed its change, and at least for the time being, had acquired a new equilibrium. Suddenly you learn that one of the kids is sick again. All your plans for spending a restful, quiet week-end come to nothing.

The frantic call to the doctor, the anxiety over the exact time for the medicine, the correct dose and the unending vigil in the night make you half sick. It is, as if waking from one nightmare, you have plunged into another.

The concomitance of the sickness and the supposed or actual change in the weather is hard to explain. We don't know for sure which affects what. Is it the weather that produced sickness or does the sickness bring about a change in the weather? It seems much like the old connection between the microcosm and the macrocosm. This never varying relationship between the two can be filter subjects for weathermen rather than doctors.

The role of doctors is crucial for the cure, maintenance and perpetuation of common ailments. The waiting rooms at the clinics are an excellent source of information regarding child health care. Most of the mothers — the veterans of many unsuccessful campaigns against disease — exchange views. Sitting there, any mother can learn within no time the art of how to make your child sick without really trying.

Most mothers pursue lost fat, bulging at the sides. They don't contain pads of notes as one might imagine. When a naughty child grabs the purse, to the extreme annoyance the mother, and spills the contents on the floor, bemused spectators discover that it was full of empty packages of medicines with the labels intact. This obviously seems to be a more convenient and surer method of keeping record of medicines used for previous sicknesses.

The doctors have developed the knack of

As EEC chief voices concern

Reagan defends economic plan

WASHINGTON, Feb. 18 (R)—President Ronald Reagan defended his economic strategy against an attack from the current leader of the European Economic Community (EEC) at a White House meeting.

Belgian Prime Minister Wilfried Martens, president of the EEC's council of ministers, said Wednesday high U.S. interest rates and a huge budget deficit were complicating European efforts to solve their own economic problems.

American officials said Reagan listened to Martens' complaints, but then told him that he thought his economic policies were the best way of dealing with both the U.S. and world economies.

The president said he believed interest rates would eventually come down as a result of his battle to curb inflation, officials said. Martens said afterwards: "The Atlantic Alliance and the Western economies are going through very difficult times and our solidarity is being put to a test."

Belgian officials said the major purpose of Martens' visit was to voice EEC fears that the new Reagan budget, forecasting a 1983 deficit of \$91.5 billion, would discourage economic recovery among its 10 member countries. But Reagan said they had had "a very fruitful

discussion of the economy, economic trade and what we can do to be mutually helpful."

Both leaders declined to disclose specifics of their two-hour meeting, although Reagan said they had found "great agreement with regard to our position in El Salvador and a recognition of what is at stake there."

Martens' visit came only a day after Luxembourg's Foreign Minister Colette Flesch expressed similar worries over U.S. economic policy in talks with administration officials. The issue of interest rates and budget deficits was also likely to feature prominently when West German economics Minister Otto Lambsdorff arrives Thursday for talks with Secretary of State Alexander Haig and Treasury Secretary Donald Regan.

While Reagan was defending his policies, the announcement Wednesday of a sharp drop in industrial production during January confirmed many economists in their belief that the present recession is bottoming out or has already done so.

The three percent cut in production shows that firms are reducing their stocks in readiness for an economic upturn whose extent will depend partly on the behavior of interest rates.

The current rise in interest rates and the

impact on financial markets of the huge deficit in Reagan's 1983 budget are also the concern of analysts of leading banks. Citibank, the second-ranking bank in the United States, has forecast an economic revival which could begin this spring. Citibank in its analysis said that interest rates should come down.

Mellon Bank has reported that the recession is almost over but that the economic upturn could be slow. Decline in interest rates should follow, but only if the Federal Reserve succeeds in reducing the present excessive expansion of monetary liquidity.

While analysts inside and outside government still said the economy should pick up somewhat by late spring, Robert Ormer, the U.S. Commerce Department's chief economist, said that if interest rates keep rising the recovery will be "anemic."

"There's no doubt the economy is still sinking," said Otto Eckstein, chairman of Data Resources Inc., a private forecasting firm in Massachusetts. "There's no good reason to expect an upturn in the next month or two, but on the other hand there's no good reason to expect a depression." "The recession will bottom out in May," he said, and then the big July income tax cut, enacted last year, should help push the economy back up.

Laker airline license is suspended

LONDON, Feb. 18 (AP)—Britain's civil aviation authority Wednesday suspended Sir Freddie Laker's operating licenses for debilitated Laker Airways, which folded Feb. 5. Laker, knighted in 1978 for pioneering the low-fare boom in trans-Atlantic travel, was given 21 days to appeal to Trade Secretary John Biffen before the suspension takes effect.

Backed by financing from his friend Roland "Tiny" Rowland, head of the Lomro trading empire, Laker hopes to lift off by April 1 in a slimmed-down "people's airline" if he can win CAA approval.

To do so, he must convince Biffen that the new airline will be financially secure. Laker Airways went into receivership owing a consortium of banks 210 million pounds (\$338.5 million).

Rival British Calenderian has asked the CAA if it can take over Laker's lucrative London-Los Angeles route and there may be other opposition to any Laker attempt to rescue part of Skytrain operations.

Rail strike in U.K. ends

LONDON, Feb. 18 (AP)—A peace deal was hammered out early Thursday to end a five-week strike that has crippled Britain's state-run rail service.

But the deal came too late to prevent the 17th one-day stoppage on the nation's 11,000-mile (17,700-kilometer) railroad network since the strikes began Jan. 13.

The breakthrough came after 13 hours of talks between a mediation team led by Lord McCarthy and representatives of management and union.

Turkish exports jump by 61%

ANKARA, Feb. 18 (R)—Turkey's exports rose by more than 61 percent in 1981, according to the Finance and Planning Organization.

Imports rose by 19 percent, but the significant rise in exports, encouraged by tax inducements and helped by ready markets in the Arab world, cut the foreign trade deficit to \$4.43 billion from \$4.75 billion in 1980.

Government economists have said the deficit should fall to \$4 billion this year.

Exports rose to \$4.70 billion last year from \$2.91 billion in 1980, while imports increased from \$7.66 billion to \$9.13 billion. Oil accounted for 38 percent of the import total.

Siberian gas pipeline work commences

MOSCOW, Feb. 18 (R)—Soviet construction workers have begun work on the controversial pipeline which will deliver 40 billion cubic meters (1,400 billion cubic feet) of Siberian natural gas a year to several West European countries, Moscow television said.

A mid-evening news bulletin Wednesday said pipeline construction had begun in the Lipetsk area, in southern Russia. But the report gave no details of progress on other sections of the planned 4,500 km (2,800 mile) link.

The United States has strongly criticized the multi-billion dollar project, arguing that it will make its West European allies too dependent on Soviet fuel supplies.

Secretary of State Alexander Haig said on Sunday he was appalled by a decision by French banks to lend the Soviet Union a billion dollars toward construction of the line. Washington has embargoed deliveries of U.S. equipment for the project.

West German banks and gas and engineering firms signed contracts on the project last year with the firm endorsement of the Bonn government, which argues that its 10.5 billion cubic meter (370 billion cubic feet) share would account for only five percent of its fuel needs.

The gas will be piped from the Urengoi field in western Siberia which has reserves estimated to be five times as great as those of Mexico, Algeria, Canada, Britain and Holland put together.

Western experts have estimated that the ambitious project, demanding advanced tech-

nology to overcome extreme conditions of cold in remote areas, will cost the Soviet Union and its Western partners about \$40 billion.

Much of the advanced technology is being bought from Western firms with hard currency loans provided by European banks. Moscow will cover its debts and obtain further hard currency revenue from gas sales, expected to last into the next century.

Moscow needs the assured hard currency earnings from the gas to compensate for falling oil revenue. Western businessmen see the Soviet Union as a relatively reliable supplier. The Soviet press has presented West European participation in the project despite U.S. objections as evidence of a political rift between Washington and its NATO allies. But Western leaders deny any such rift.

In Rome, Prime Minister Giovanni Spadolini said Wednesday the Italian government would probably not decide whether to ap-

proach purchases of Soviet gas before the European Economic Community agreed on joint reaction to Soviet involvement in the Polish crisis. A decision would in any case not be taken until after a planned meeting of leaders of Italy's five coalition partners next week, he told a press conference.

In Washington, meanwhile, the United States' Chamber of Commerce has decided firmly against plans by the administration to block construction of a pipeline due to carry gas from Soviet Siberia to Western Europe.

In a letter published Thursday, the chamber's President Richard Lester condemned any extension of the sanctions taken on Dec. 30 against the Soviet Union to include European companies producing key equipment under American licenses. He said that such a measure "will only aggravate further our already poor international reputation for commercial reliability."

Chile's economy takes a downward turn

SANTIAGO, Chile, Feb. 18 (AP)—Nobel prize winner Milton Friedman called Chile an economic miracle, and so it seemed for several years.

With President Augusto Pinochet's military government behind them, a group of U.S.-trained, free-market economists were given free rein to pull Chile from the economic rubble left by the Marxist government of Salvador Allende, toppled in 1973.

They were called the Chicago boys because many were University of Chicago trained. They rolled inflation back from 508 percent in 1973 to 90 percent — an incredibly low figure by Latin American standards.

To stimulate foreign investment the Chicago boys slashed tariff barriers to 10 percent, flooding Chilean shops with consumer goods ranging from Betamax video tape players to American toilet parts.

Unaccustomed to such a wealth of consumer goods and lured by offers of easy (though expensive) credit, Chileans went on a buying spree.

Chile's credit rating soared and foreign loan money poured in (\$2.5 billion in 1981) as foreign investors were guaranteed equal treatment and unlimited export of profits.

The government balanced its budget, and

unemployment edged steadily downward, hitting 10.5 percent last year, according to a University of Chile survey.

Chile, in fact, seemed not only well down the road to economic recovery but destined to become a showpiece for Western capitalism — a model of what free enterprise can do when given the chance.

That's how it looked until recently. After five years of growth averaging 7.5 percent, serious problems are plaguing Chile's free market economics. Some economists are forecasting negative growth for the first quarter and some of the nation's major businesses have failed. New failures are occurring more than one a day.

The latest bankruptcy: The Holiday Inn Cordillera, Santiago's new luxury class hotel, which opened early last year. The Holiday Inn management team will stay on but Chilean owners have surrendered the property to bank creditors.

Unemployment is expected to rise at the same time Chile's reserves are being eroded by a trade deficit that was \$76 million for January alone and \$2.8 billion for 1981.

Reserves that totaled \$4.06 billion in Sep-

Dollar rates fall unchecked

By J.H. Hammond

JEDDAH, Feb. 18 — The dollar eased back further in Europe Thursday after a mixed trading day in New York the previous night. Eurodollar deposit rates continued to ease, but falls were not more than 1/8 percent and the one-year rate was still relatively firm at 16 3/16-16 5/16 percent Thursday.

Several of the larger U.S. commercial banks led the way by raising prime lending rates to 17 percent from 16 1/2 percent levels and it is expected that the smaller banks will soon fall in line. In New York Wednesday night, Federal Reserve "Fed" fund rates were trading at 16 1/2 percent levels despite some injection of liquidity into the American money markets.

In the bullion markets, gold fell back to \$370/371 per ounce levels by mid-afternoon in London which was a surprising drop of some \$4 compared with Wednesday levels. Dealing was thin though and the metal was still trading within the above narrow band by late afternoon Thursday. In the local markets, rial deposit rates continued to fall, taking the one-month JIBOR rates to 14 1/4-15 percent levels by close of business compared with 15-15 1/2 percent on opening. Similar falls were recorded for almost all other tenors.

The European markets were reacting with mixed feelings to the dollar Thursday. Profit taking and position cutting on the dollar dropped the American currency's value on the exchange markets, and the

mark and British pound made some headway against the dollar. The German currency improved to 2.3850 levels from Wednesday's 2.3940, while the British pound also strengthened from 1.8370 to 1.8460 without central bank support. Similar gains were also registered by the other continental currencies with the French franc now trading at 6.0520 and the Swiss currency at 1.9000 from Tuesday levels of 1.9200. The yen was also higher at 237.10 compared with 239.80 on opening. Dealers in London were still of the opinion that the above dollar falls merely represented some technical reactions and that the American currency was basically still strong despite an announced fall of 3 percent in the U.S. January industrial output figures. Money market dealers still believe that dollar interest rates will continue to firm and the rise in commercial bank prime rates seems to indicate so.

In the local exchanges, spot rial/dollar rates opened at 3.4195-05 levels, and briefly touched 3.4200-10 before falling back to the lower level by late afternoon trading. In the money markets, dealers saw rates decline for the third consecutive day taking the week-fixed to 13-14 percent compared to 15 1/4-16 percent levels last Monday.

| Closing gold prices (in U.S. dollars per troy ounce): | |
|---|--------|
| London | 369.25 |
| Paris | 368.69 |
| Frankfurt | 368.99 |
| Zurich | 369.50 |
| Hong Kong | 376.24 |

Mexico halts support to peso

MEXICO CITY, Feb. 18 (R)—Mexico's Central Bank has announced that it would temporarily stop supporting the peso on the foreign exchange market.

It said the peso, which has been under strong pressure recently because of Mexico's mounting trade deficit, would be allowed to find its market level against other currencies.

Last year, the bank allowed the currency to devalue gradually against the dollar by 12 percent. The peso stood Wednesday at 26.49/27.03 to the dollar.

The central bank gave no details on how the apparently free float of the peso would

operate. It has operated a "dirty float" in recent years by allowing regular mini-devaluations to relieve pressure on the peso slowly. Banking sources had said the currency, last officially devalued in 1976, needed to be traded at a more realistic level. One source said a devaluation of at least 25 percent was necessary this year.

Mexico's balance of payments deficit almost doubled last year to \$11 billion, while pressure on the peso was increased because Mexico's annual inflation rate of 28 percent far exceeds that in the United States.

Inflation in Mexico is currently running at about 30 percent and wage earners are likely to find themselves in for some serious belt-tightening if a large devaluation of the peso does in fact result from the central bank's decision to let the peso seek its own level of value on world money markets.

BRIEFS

PARIS, (R)—Talks on setting a new timetable for repayment of Sudan's debts, due to start here Thursday, have been postponed until the International Monetary Fund (IMF) guarantees extra funds, diplomatic sources said here. Sudan's outstanding debts are put at \$4 billion.

TOKYO, (R)—Japan's Mitsui industrial group said Thursday it would send a mission to Tehran Saturday to discuss the stalled multi-billion dollar Bandar Khomeini petrochemical plant. The plant, which Mitsui was helping to build, is 85 percent complete but the Japanese group is no longer able to put more funds into it.

JEDDAH, (CNA)—Several thousand people visiting the Chinese pavilion at the Ocean Expo 1982 which was concluded Thursday in Bahrain after a four-day display. The Republic of China, represented by the China Petroleum Corp. and the Ret-Ser Engineering Agency, was one of some 20 countries to have participated in the exhibition, said Y.Y. Tseng deputy director of Ret-Ser's Saudi Arabian office, who just returned from Bahrain.

MANILA, (AFP)—The Philippine government has approved a maritime industrial development plan which would require investment of 4,700 million pesos (\$525 million) to encourage the growth of the country's overseas and domestic shipping industry, it was announced here Thursday.

LONDON, (AP)—The executive committee of the International Sugar Organization held its first 1982 meeting Wednesday and elected Gerald Watkins of Australia chairman for this crop year. Watkins is minister councillor at the Australian High Commission here.

LISBON, (AFP)—The Portuguese government Thursday authorized the national airline to enter a leasing arrangement for seven Boeing 737-200 aircraft to replace the 727-100 on medium haul flights.

U.S. cuts a big blow, Clausen says

WASHINGTON, Feb. 18 (AP)—A.W. Clausen, head of the World Bank, called the shortfall in the U.S. contribution "a heavy blow" to its international leading in aid of poor countries.

He said it had triggered similar cuts from other donor nations. As a result only \$2.6 billion is available this year instead of \$4.1 billion for interest-free loans to the poorest nations. These are made by the International Development Association, a bank affiliate.

Clausen recalled that the United States used to take the lead in aid efforts and predicted that it would do so again. "It is particularly important in these times of political and economic difficulties," he said, "that all nations maintain the flow of aid funds that they agreed to in international negotiations." "Levels of official development assistance must rise."

Former President Jimmy Carter pledged over \$1 billion a year to IDA for three years. Congress has cut this amount, and although the Reagan administration says it wants to keep the pledge it also wants to cut its contributions after the three years are up. Clausen also announced that the bank would not change its highly conservative "one-to-one gearing ratio" — a rule that it will lend out no more money than the equivalent of its capital and reserves.

An international commission on relations between rich and poor countries, headed by former West German Chancellor Willy Brandt, had recommended that the lending be doubled. Normal commercial banks, like the bank of America that Clausen used to head, have a gearing ratio of 20 or more to one — that is, they make loans much greater than their capital and reserves.

Much of the inefficiency of Soviet agriculture can be traced back to the system of collective and state farms introduced by Josef Stalin amid much starvation and suffering 50 years ago. Stalin's system ensured Communist control of the countryside and compulsory deliveries of grain to the state, leaving the collectivized peasants to feed themselves.

His successor Nikita Khrushchev applied one magic remedy after another to the ailing system, but with little result. When Leonid Brezhnev took over as leader in 1964, one of his first moves was to take a fresh start in agricultural policy.

All's not well on the Soviet food front

MOSCOW, Feb. 18 (R)—For the first time in many years, the Soviet Union has kept secret its data on the grain harvest, leaving Soviet citizens and foreigners to speculate on just how bad a mess the farms are in.

Signs of a deepening crisis in Soviet agriculture have been brought sharply into focus by this mysterious hole in the published economic statistics. Even without the grain figure, the 1981 results made bleak reading. Less sugar beet and sunflower seeds were harvested than in any year since 1963. Milk production fell to its lowest level since 1973 despite a rise in livestock numbers to a record high, while output of potatoes was the second lowest in 18 years.

If and when the grain harvest total is released, it is certain to show the third bad result in a row after the poor crops of 1979 and 1980. Soviet citizens have no need to read statistics to know that all is not well. Food shortages, especially of meat and dairy products are widespread and so is rationing, organized on a town-by-town basis. Figures published last week in Soviet journals underlined the problem. One showed that meat production fell 6.8 percent in January to 1.4 million tons, while the other said there was "serious concern" about fulfilling state plans for buying grain.

Food allowances vary from place to place according to supply. In the Volga city of Kazan a monthly coupon gives the right to

buy two kilograms (4.4 pounds) of meat per person per month, while in Irkutsk, far away in Siberia, it is only one kilogram (2.2 pounds). Moscow, the capital, is well supplied but even here shops limit purchasers to half a kilogram (1.1 pounds) of butter at a time.

Even to maintain supplies at current levels, the Soviet Union is having to spend billions of dollars abroad to buy grain, soyas beans, sugar and vegetable oil. For the record, the poor 1981 farm results have been blamed on the weather and highly ambitious targets for the remaining four years of the 1981-85 plan have been left unchanged.

But even if the admitted fickle Russian weather is kind to the farmers in 1982, the likelihood of a fast turnaround in Soviet agricultural fortunes seems to be slim.

His successor Nikita Khrushchev applied one magic remedy after another to the ailing system, but with little result. When Leonid Brezhnev took over as leader in 1964, one of his first moves was to take a fresh start in agricultural policy.

SAUDI ARABIAN GOVERNMENT TENDERS

| Authority | Description | Tenders No. | Tender Price (SR) | Closing Date |
|--|--|-------------|-------------------|--------------|
| Ministry of Posts, Telegraph and Telephones, Saudi Telephone | Supply of stationery | 12053 | 50 | 22.2.82 |
| Education Ministry | Supply and installation of dynamos in some schools in various areas for 1401/1402H | 79M | 250 | 23.2.82 |
| Abqiy Municipality | Fencing of the new and old Ain Dar graveyards | — | 500 | 27.2.82 |

PORTS AUTHORITY

JEDDAH ISLAMIC PORT
SHIPS MOVEMENTS UPTO 0700 HOURS ON
24TH RABI THANI 1402/18TH FEBRUARY 1982

1. SHIPS DISCHARGING :

| Berth | Name of Vessel | Agent | Type of Cargo | Arrival |
|-------|------------------|-----------|-------------------------------|---------|
| 3. | Tunisian Reefer | O.C.E. | Eggs/Meat/Barley | 13.2.82 |
| 4. | Pandora | A.A. | Barley | 16.2.82 |
| 5. | Namex | S.C.S.A. | Barley | 14.2.82 |
| 7. | Horizon | Bamaodah | Barley/General | 15.2.82 |
| 8. | Claudia Koegal | Shobokshi | Gen/Const. Equip/ & Materials | 10.2.82 |
| 10. | World Trader | Bamaodah | Barley | 7.2.82 |
| 12. | Saudi Enterprise | M.E.S.A. | Gen/sugar/Tim/Steel | 12.2.82 |
| 13. | Kota Melur | O.C.E. | Generators/Sugar/Gan. | 17.2.82 |
| 14. | El Obaid | A.E.T. | Containers | 17.2.82 |
| 16. | Bristol Maru | A.E.T. | Bulk Cement | 12.2.82 |
| 18. | Ionien Carrier | Rolaco | Gen/Const/Equip/Tim | 13.2.82 |
| 20. | Saudi Vantura | M.E.S.A. | Barley | 9.2.82 |
| 21. | Apollon | Barley | Barley | 15.2.82 |
| 22. | Orient Trophy | Red Sea | General | 17.2.82 |
| 23. | Chinta | Star | Oranges | 17.2.82 |
| 24. | Frigo Las Palmas | Star | Oranges | 17.2.82 |
| 25. | Krivan | Atar | Tiles/Timber/Beams | 16.2.82 |
| 28. | Mykonos | M.T.A. | Meat/Fish/Poultry | 11.2.82 |
| 29. | Ashraf Al Aowel | O.C.E. | Eggs/Chicken | 15.2.82 |
| 31. | Rolita | A.E.T. | Vehicles | 18.2.82 |
| 34. | Ilucia Dal Mar | Fame | Containers | 18.2.82 |
| 35. | Flindras Bay | Samsco | Containers | 18.2.82 |
| 36. | Lina | Feyez | Ldg. Gan./Cars | 16.2.82 |
| 38. | Tropical Sun | O.C.E. | Bananas | 11.2.82 |
| 40. | Meldive Sea | Ori | Gen/Tents/Cars/ Foodstuffs | 16.2.82 |
| 42. | Kilo | Algosabli | Barley | 17.2.82 |
| 43. | Goullia | Star | Barley/Wheat | 3.2.82 |

KING ABDUL AZIZ PORT DAMMAM

SHIPS MOVEMENT UPTO 0700 HOURS OF
24.4.1402/18.2.1982 CHANGES FOR THE PAST 24 HOURS

| | | | | |
|-----|---------------------|---------|--------------------|---------|
| S2. | Asia No. 12 | SMC | General/Conts | 16.2.82 |
| 3. | Eastern Summit | Gosabli | General | 17.2.82 |
| 4. | Glau Chau | UEP | Gen/Conts. | 16.2.82 |
| 5. | Georgios Koropoulos | OCE | General | 17.2.82 |
| 6. | Safira Reefer | SMC | Reefer Cargo | 16.2.82 |
| 7. | Pike Bank | Kanoo | Gen/Conts/Office | 13.2.82 |
| 9. | Benglar Joy | SCSA | Loading Urea | 10.2.82 |
| 11. | Golden Ventura | Ori | Bulk Bauxite | 18.2.82 |
| 13. | Island Star | Alsaada | General | 16.2.82 |
| 14. | Leningard | Gulf | Gan/Conts. | 16.2.82 |
| 15. | Union Hodaiah | SEA | General/Conts. | 14.2.82 |
| 16. | Kaderbaksh | UEP | Rice/Maize in Bags | 16.2.82 |
| 17. | Icaros | IACC | General | 17.2.82 |
| 25. | Costa Arabica | Rezyat | Containers | 17.2.82 |
| 28. | St. Louis | Rezyat | Cars | 17.2.82 |
| 26. | St. Louis | Rezyat | Bananas | 16.2.82 |
| 29. | Chios Pride | Star | Bulk Iron Ore | 18.2.82 |
| 30. | Baron Macley | Kanoo | | |

London stock market

LONDON, Feb. 18 (R)—The market closed mixed with government bonds showing gains of up to 3/4 point. Dealers said the firmness reflected market rumors of a 10 percent cut in U.S. defense spending. The subsequent denial from Washington prompted a brief setback, but stock shortage pushed prices back up, dealers added.

Equities were slightly easier on balance after a firmer opening and North American issues were mixed but with an easier bias, dealers said.

Gold shares recovered after the bullion price rallied at the afternoon fix and Turner and Newall was 8p off at 99p on small nervous selling interest in reaction to cabinet changes in Zimbabwe, dealers said.

Bovater gave up 6p of its recent speculative gain at 258p and on mixed insurance, Eagle Star was 5p off on balance at 378 following news that it had acquired a controlling interest in L'Independence, dealers added.

Foreign Exchange Rates

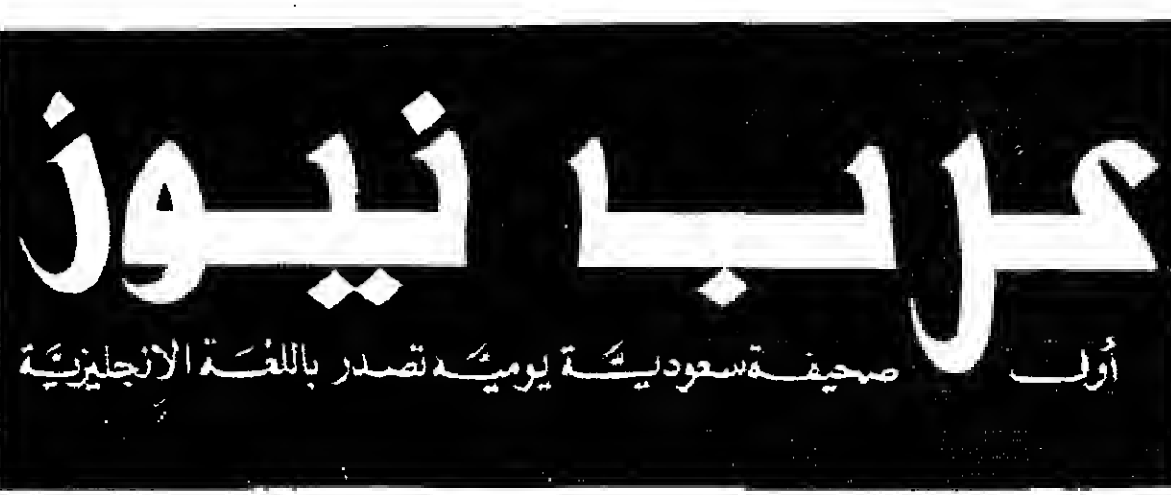
| Quoted at 8:00 p.m. Thursday | | |
|------------------------------|--------|--------------|
| | SAMA | Cash |
| Bahraini Dinar | | 9.00 |
| Bangladesh Taka | | — |
| Belgian Franc (1,000) | | — |
| Canadian Dollar | 143.75 | 143.55 |
| Deutsche Mark (100) | 131.50 | 131.00 |
| Dutch Guilder (100) | 3.49 | 3.92 |
| Egyptian Pound | 93.00 | 93.15 |
| Emirates Dirham (100) | 56.80 | 56.55 |
| French Franc (100) | 52.00 | 55.75 |
| Greek Drachma (1,000) | — | 37.00 |
| Indian Rupee (100) | 6.50 | — |
| Iranian Rial (100) | 27.20 | — |
| Iraqi Dinar | — | 27.00 |
| Italian Lira (10,000) | — | 14.45 |
| Japanese Yen (1,000) | 9.98 | 9.88 |
| Jordanian Dinar | 12.05 | 12.00 |
| Kuwaiti Dinar | 70.25 | 70.00 |
| Lebanese Lira (100) | 58.50 | 60.90 |
| Moroccan Dirham (100) | — | 31.75 |
| Pakistani Rupee (100) | — | 41.65 |
| Philippine Peso (100) | 6.34 | 6.31 |
| Pound Sterling | 94.00 | 94.10 |
| Qatari Rial (100) | — | 161.45 |
| Singapore Dollar (100) | — | 33.85 |
| Spanish Peseta (1,000) | 180.50 | 180.00 |
| Swiss Franc (100) | 58.00 | 63.70 |
| Syrian Lira (100) | — | — |
| Turkish Lira (1,000) | 3.429 | 3.422 |
| U.S. Dollar | 1.300 | — |
| Yemeni Rial (100) | 75.00 | 74.90 |
| Selling Price | | Buying Price |
| Gold kg. | 40.650 | 40.650 |
| 10 Tolas bar | 4,780 | 4,720 |
| Ounce | 1,300 | 1,260 |

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Haughey tipped to win Irish poll

DUBLIN, Feb. 18 (Agencies) — Irish opposition leader Charles Haughey was tipped to win Ireland's electoral run-off Thursday as two million voters went to the polls after an election campaign dominated by the country's economic crisis.

Observers here believed that an energetic up-to-the-minute campaign waged by opposition Fianna Fail party leader Haughey might prove successful in toppling outgoing Prime Minister Garrett Fitzgerald.

The republic's 2.2 million voters began choosing the new government for the second time in eight months.

Polling stations in the 41 electoral districts opened at 9 a.m. and were to close 12 hours later. There are 364 candidates contesting 165 seats in the Dail, or lower house. The Speaker, John O'Connell, an independent Socialist, is automatically re-elected.

The central issue throughout the bitterly fought, three-week campaign was how to tackle the country's worst economic crisis since the state was founded in 1921 after independence from Britain.

Prime Minister Garrett Fitzgerald called the election after his shaky Fine Gael-Labor coalition was defeated in January by 82 votes to 81 in the Dail on harsh budget proposals aimed at slashing a record 10 billion Irish pounds (\$15 billion) foreign debt.

Fine Gael, Gaelic for family of the Irish, won 65 seats in last June's poll and Labor 15, Fianna Fail, or soldiers of destiny, held 78.

There were eight independents, including two convicted Irish Republican Army guerrillas jailed in British-ruled Northern Ireland who did not take their seats. Fitzgerald was kept in power for six months by the support of the independents. Fine Gael proposes hefty tax hikes and welfare cuts to trim massive state borrowing.

Fianna Fail, traditionally the biggest single party who was in power until last June, initially denied there was a crisis. But mid-way through the campaign unveiled proposals to increase taxes on corporations and banks rather than hit individuals.

The last opinion polls published Tuesday put Fitzgerald, an amiable academic dubbed "Honest Garret" during the campaigning, 22 points ahead of Haughey in personal popularity.

But observers believe Haughey, a veteran of the republic's political wars, wiped out much of that edge by trouncing the scholarly Fitzgerald in a television debate Tuesday night.

From page one Blast

al Syrian city of Hama for the 17th straight day in an attempt to quell a revolt by insurgents of the outlawed Muslim Brotherhood, responsible for a two-year campaign of bombings and assassinations that claimed the lives of hundreds of regime backers.

The Assad regime has since vowed to crush the Brotherhood and Hama, 175 kms north of Damascus is the latest arena of the ongoing showdown.

Western diplomats here say the rebels are holding out in the old quarters of the city of 260,000 inhabitants on the Orontes River, where movement of tanks and heavy armor is almost impossible in the narrow, winding alleys.

Government forces have been pounding the rebel strongholds with multiple rocket launchers, heavy artillery, tank cannons and helicopter gunships since Feb. 2 to crush rebel strongholds. The information ministry blast was the fifth major bombing since last summer.

On Nov. 29, a bomb-laden car exploded in the Azbakiyah neighborhood of downtown Damascus, killing 76 persons and injuring 135, according to official figures. Western diplomats said the death toll eventually mounted to nearly 200 after the bomb exploded between a police station and an elementary school.

Pictures

Charles told the Press Club in London: "I must just say how particularly reasonable and understanding the editors have been in giving my wife and myself a breather, and we are most grateful. I hope it goes on a little bit longer."

The editor of the Sun did not attend the palace session with the queen, and its staff has continued to pursue the royal couple. Its chief rival for royal scoops is the Daily Star.

Egypt

to sell them to Iran but held up shipment in support of the U.S. position in the hostage crisis. The use of U.S. credits, which amounted to about half of the \$160 million purchase price, was justified on grounds that components of the helicopters were built in the United States.

Thousands hail Nkomo dismissal

SALISBURY, Zimbabwe, Feb. 18 (AP) — Thousands of Prime Minister Robert Mugabe's supporters, some bearing a symbolic coffin, marched through the streets of central Salisbury Thursday in support of the firing of junior coalition government partner Joshua Nkomo.

"Down with Nkomo" placards were waved as more than 5,000 marchers, dancing, cheering and singing, gathered outside Prime Minister Mugabe's office.

Elsewhere, grim-faced supporters of the ZAPU leader expressed anger and shock at the ouster of the burly veteran nationalist leader.

Nkomo, president of the Zimbabwe African Peoples' Union based on the minority Matabele tribe of western Zimbabwe, told reporters his party had quit the fragile 22-month coalition government to form an opposition to Mugabe's Zimbabwe African National Union (Patriotic Front).

Mugabe, whose party is founded on the majority Shona tribe, has 57 of the 100 seats in the executive National Assembly and can alone pass routine legislation. But in the past he has needed Nkomo's 20 seats to muster the two-thirds majority required for constitutional changes.

Mugabe announced Wednesday the dismissal

ZAPU angry, shocked

from his 25-member cabinet of Nkomo, who was minister without portfolio, along with two other ministers and a junior minister. He alleged they were linked to massive arms hoards. He charged intended to back a coup against his government.

Nkomo, who has stridently denied the charges, told reporters he expected two other ZAPU ministers and one junior minister still in the cabinet would quit and join the opposition. Mugabe told Wednesday's news conference the three men were not involved in the plot.

But at least one of the three, Deputy Minister Minister Cephas Mpsa, said he would not resign his post. "My country comes first," he said.

Nkomo, who conferred with two aides on the fate of his party Thursday, received many telephone calls and messages of support — mainly from Matabeleland, his tribal power base.

In Salisbury, knots of Matabele workers looked on grim-faced but silent as hundreds of young supporters of Mugabe's Shona-backed ZANU (PF) marched through the streets of the capital. The demonstrators, also watched by police, carried placards calling for a one-party state — an expressed aim of the prime minister — and demanding Nkomo be

detained as some 15 whites have been for alleged subversion in the last five months.

"They are not talking of a one-party state," Amos Sibanda, a driver, said bitterly. "They are talking of a one-tribe state."

In Bulawayo, administrative capital of Matabeleland, most newspapers headlining Nkomo's ouster were sold out early in the morning.

"People here cannot believe that it's happened," said Rosemary Moyo, who owns a dress-making shop. "They're shocked — and they're very angry."

The former supreme military commander of ZAPU's military wing, Soviet-trained Dumiso "Black Russian" Dabengwa, told the *Bulawayo Chronicle* newspaper in an interview Thursday that arms had been hidden away by ex-guerrillas for fear of Civil War.

Dabengwa, who led Nkomo's guerrillas in a seven-year war to end nine decades of white minority rule in this former British colony, said there was mistrust between guerrillas loyal to the ZAPU leader and to Mugabe.

Mugabe, at this news conference, claimed Nkomo had plotted several times to overthrow his government. Mugabe also maintained Nkomo had twice sought in vain the help of neighboring white-ruled South Africa to stage a coup. Nkomo denied the allegations.

Union hopes Walesa may be released

STRASBOURG, France, Feb. 18 (AFP) — The government may decide to release Lech Walesa, the leader of Poland's suspended Solidarity labor union federation, to ease a deadlock with a hostile population, a Solidarity official said Thursday.

Speaking at a news conference at European Parliament headquarters here, Georg Grebski, one of the leaders of Solidarity's international coordination committee, based in Zurich, said Walesa's release was "possible."

He added that Walesa had not seen any family members since he had been placed under house arrest on Dec. 13, when martial law was declared. (This statement conflicted with reports in several Western publications, which quoted Western intelligence sources as saying Walesa's family was with him in a government-owned house outside Warsaw.) Grebski said the government may decide to release Walesa because "its position is difficult against a hostile and resolved population."

3 killed, 3 hurt in American sniper's firing

CHULA VISTA, California, Feb. 18 (AP) — Three persons were killed and at least three others, including a deputy, were wounded Wednesday by a sniper firing a variety of weapons in a trailer park. One man was taken into custody more than four hours after the shooting began, sheriff's deputies said.

The identity of the man, believed to be suffering from a heart condition, was not immediately known nor was a motive established, said San Diego County Sheriff's Department spokesman Capt. Jack Drown.

Drown said "dozens, if not 100 shots were fired," all by the suspect. The man, believed to be in his 50s, was captured by police who stormed a mobile home an hour after a barrage of tear gas was fired into it. There were no negotiations.

An officer who asked to remain anonymous said the man was semi-conscious on a bed in a rear bedroom and did not resist. He was taken to Bay General Community Hospital where spokesman Paul Omondson said he was in "poor condition with no evidence of serious injuries."

Drown said the man was armed with a

.38-caliber pistol when located inside the trailer. The extent of the suspect's arsenal was not immediately known, but Sheriff John Duffy said it was believed the man had a shotgun, a rifle and a pistol.

Names of the two women and man killed were being withheld until relatives could be notified. Their covered bodies lay outside the trailer from which the gunfire erupted while police examined the scene.

Just before 5 p.m., officers laid down a smoke screen, then advanced behind it with an armored van to remove one woman's body from a driveway at the Mountain View mobile lodge.

Then, officers began lobbing tear gas canisters inside a trailer they believed the gunman was using. The tear gas barrage continued for at least 45 minutes before the shooting stopped and the man was taken into custody.

Deputy Robert Brown, 34, was hit in the neck and was listed in stable condition at Bay General after undergoing two hours of surgery, Duffy said.

Deputy Linda Harmuth was credited with

saving Brown's life by dragging him to safety after he was hit by a .22-caliber bullet at the base of the throat, Duffy said. She had answered the initial call with Brown. Duffy said, Chula Vista is a community of 90,000, 25 kms south of San Diego.

In another development, police raided a Beverly Hills home in Los Angeles, arrested five men and confiscated gun silencers, weapons, military clothing and Nazi medals, authorities said Wednesday.

All five men were booked for investigation of armed robbery in connection with what police describe as "commando-type" attacks on west Los Angeles homes. Two of those arrested claimed to be Romanians and one said he was from Sweden.

"We still can't ascertain if they're affiliated with any political group," said detective Ron Venneman, adding that they have no group name. "They seem to pride themselves on being commando-type robbers." Four of the men were still in custody Wednesday, but one, Edward David, 20, was released on \$5,000 bail.

Schmidt told to back Soviet plea on missiles

BONN, Feb. 18 (AFP) — West German Chancellor Helmut Schmidt is under growing pressure from his Social Democrat Party to back Soviet demands for inclusion of British and French nuclear strike forces at the Geneva Euro-missile talks.

A motion to this effect is on the agenda of the party's annual congress which opens in Munich in mid-April. The motion will seek that U.S.-Soviet talks in Geneva take account of "all nuclear forces based inside Europe or targeted on Europe, including the air forces of both sides capable of transporting nuclear weapons."

Specifically, "French and British nuclear weapons must be taken into account in the East-West balance of strength" at the negotiations to scale down the nuclear buildup in Europe, the motion said.

The motion, however, is seen in government circles here as standing little chance of being carried. Schmidt may safely count on the support of 60 percent of the congress to stand firm on the North Atlantic Treaty Organization position which the American negotiators are holding out for at Geneva.

That position is the so-called "zero option" involving Soviet withdrawal of its SS-4, SS-5, and SS-20 missiles in exchange for the U.S. canceling the scheduled deployment of Pershing-2 and Cruise missiles in Western Europe. The American stance excludes any discussion of British and French nuclear weapons.

The Social Democrat Party's 22 regional federations have already come out against the chancellor's support of the zero option. Egon Bahr, the party's expert on security matters, has put forward a modified version

of the option whereby the Soviets would be allowed to maintain a reduced SS-20 deployment to counter balance the French and British nuclear systems in NATO.

"This is certainly not much help, coming at the start of the Geneva talks," a senior West German diplomat admitted. "If the French and British nuclear systems are to be included at all, it should be as central strategic systems within the context of the SALT talks," he added.

The motion to be presented at the Social Democrat congress represents a more flexible approach to the Soviet Union and a consequent weakening of the firm U.S. and NATO position at the Geneva talks, which began Nov. 30.

It is closer to the Soviet position, which seeks to have forward-based systems on both sides included in the negotiations on nuclear parity — a demand that is at present rejected by the Americans.

13 missing as collision sinks ship in S. Africa

CAPE TOWN, South Africa, Feb. 18 (AP) — The flagship of the South African Navy, the frigate S.A.S. *President Kruger*, sank early Thursday after colliding with a supply ship, but most of its crew were saved, the Navy announced.

Thirteen of 190 men on board the frigate are missing, Defense Minister Magnus Malan announced. According to earlier unofficial reports, all but four of the crew had been recovered. Gen. Malan, who was speaking before Parliament here, said search and rescue operations were continuing.

The 22-year-old frigate collided in gale force winds at 4:22 a.m. (0222 GMT) with a much larger fleet supply tanker, the S.A.S. *Tafelberg*, about 130 kms southwest of Cape Town, the Navy spokesman said.

None of the *Tafelberg's* approximately 100 crew was injured. The 19,000-ton supply ship was badly damaged but remained afloat and beached for the mainland.

The 2,250-ton *President Kruger* was ordered abandoned shortly after the collision and went down about an hour later as Navy ships, helicopters, planes and two subs beaded for the area.

Some casualties were taken to a military hospital by helicopter, but no details were available on how many. The *Kruger* was launched in 1960. Jane's Fighting Ships said it was last refitted in 1980 to upgrade its anti-submarine capabilities and convert to a helicopter-carrying ship.

The 110-meter *Kruger* was one of the largest ships in South Africa's small Navy. It was originally one of three President-class frigates, one of which has been withdrawn from service.

Its sinking leaves a sister frigate and an old ex-British destroyer as the largest ships in the fleet, along with 20 smaller vessels.

Britain OKs Canada bill

LONDON, Feb. 18 (AP) — A bill to relinquish Britain's control over the Canadian constitution passed a major legislative hurdle Wednesday night in the house of Commons.

The Canada bill was approved on a second reading — a crucial legislative stage with formal debate — by a vote of 334-44. The measure now goes into committee for a clause-by-clause inspection. It must still be approved on a third reading in the Commons and then by the House of Lords before becoming law.

Canadian Prime Minister Pierre Elliott Trudeau's government asked the British Parliament to end a colonial legacy by "patriating" the constitution — officially the British North America Act of 1867 — to Ottawa. The bill being considered also would insert a charter of rights and an amending formula, issues that previously had blocked Canadian agreement on a package to present to Britain.

Nine of Canada's 10 provinces — all but Quebec — reached agreement with Trudeau in November on the proposal now before Parliament.

Canadian Indians oppose the measure on grounds it would not protect rights granted by treaty to their ancestors.

Indian Parliament opens

NEW DELHI, Feb. 18 (R) — Indian President N. Sanjiva Reddy told Parliament Thursday India should be prepared to face the threat of what he called the increasing military presences around it. Opening the annual budget session of Parliament, Reddy said "Military presences around us have increased..." but he did not elaborate.

In an apparent reference to U.S. military aid to Pakistan, Reddy said: "it is regrettable that the strategic considerations of other countries should cast extra burdens on us. Pakistan has stated that the arms from the United States are to help guard its northern border with Afghanistan."

Good Morning

By Jihad Al-Khazen

Few people in the Arab world know the name of Richard Dimbleby — a British television broadcaster who once made a well-known documentary on the Middle East. He is known here as something of a broadcasting heavyweight, but is celebrated for a practical joke he played once on the public, when he filmed a report on the great spaghetti-harvest disaster in Italy, complete with spaghetti laden trees, and woebegone 'Italian' farmers wondering how they'll make ends meet now that the harvest has failed.

The remarkable thing about this incident is how many people believed it — For people, it appears, would believe anything the media tell them with a straight face.

In America recently, a television station showed a film describing the life of a bogus preacher. The actor did so well that the station received fifteen thousand letters from people who wished to join the sect he was founding. Another station also once made an April Fool's broadcast in which it reported that a number of prehistoric monsters were rampaging in a certain area of the town. Police cars converged screaming on the area, battling their way through thousands of people who went to have a look.

Such gullibility is, of course, not restricted to the European or American public. We have our fair share of it ourselves in the Arab world. But the point is that it doesn't really matter all that much for others, so modest is our influence on the globe. But the gullibility of the Americans is quite another matter. Anyone can (except us, it seems) sell them a bill of goods — the Zionists being the most successful in that field. And what is sold then becomes a matter of international policy.

Translated from Ashraf Al-Awsat

Viet-led force intrudes into Thailand

BANGKOK, Feb. 18 (R) — About 300 Vietnamese-led troops moved into Thailand from Kampuchea Wednesday in pursuit of Khmer Rouge guerrillas and withdrew after clashes with Thai forces, military officials said Thursday.

Military sources at the border said five Thai police officers were missing after the fighting. Officials of the Thai Supreme Command said the intruders, including 40 Vietnamese, had penetrated one kilometer inside Thailand when they clashed briefly with a Thai border patrol police unit in Chanthaburi province.

First reports reaching the high command said fighting was continuing Thursday between the Vietnamese-led group and Thai reinforcements. But later reports said most of the intruding troops were believed to have returned to Kampuchea and no clashes had taken place Thursday.


Wednesday's skirmish took place at Sattali, 300 kms southeast of Bangkok, the border sources said. The Vietnamese in recent weeks have stepped up attacks on Khmer Rouge strongholds near the Thai-Kampuchean frontier.

The sources said most of the Vietnamese-led troops in the latest incident withdrew apparently after Thai police and Marine reinforcements were sent to clear the area near the ill-defined and jungle-covered border.

In a related issue, the three Communist Indochinese countries — Vietnam, Cambodia and Laos — will hold a summit conference this year, it was announced in a statement published at the end of the fifth Indochinese foreign ministers' conference in Vientiane Thursday.

The statement, released by the Vietnam News Agency in Hanoi, gave no details of this forthcoming first-ever summit conference of the three countries, but said their foreign ministers had decided to "speed up preparatory work" for the conference.

The foreign ministers, Nguyen Co Thach of Vietnam, Hun Sen of the pro-Vietnamese Phnom Penh government and interim Foreign Minister Khampay Boupha of Laos reaffirmed their desire to reestablish "normal relations" with China.



GLOBAL WEATHER

| | Min | | Max | | | Min | | Max | | |
|--------------|-----|----|-----|----|--------|----------------|----|-----|----|----|
| | C | F | C | F | | C | F | C | F | |
| Amsterdam | -1 | 30 | -4 | 39 | cloudy | Manila | 17 | 63 | 31 | 88 |
| Athens | 5 | 41 | 10 | 50 | rain | Mexico City | 8 | 46 | 24 | 75 |
| Bahrain | 13 | 55 | 18 | 68 | cloudy | Miami | 18 | 65 | 27 | 81 |
| Bangkok | 26 | 79 | 31 | 88 | clear | Montreal | -7 | 19 | -4 | 25 |
| Beirut | 5 | 41 | 14 | 57 | clear | Moscow | -7 | 19 | -6 | 21 |
| Berlin | -2 | 28 | 3 | 36 | cloudy | New Delhi | 12 | 54 | 23 | 73 |
| Brussels | -2 | 28 | 5 | 41 | cloudy | New York | 0 | 32 | 5 | 42 |
| Buenos Aires | 19 | 66 | 27 | 81 | cloudy | Nicosia | 1 | 34 | 14 | 57 |
| Cairo | 7 | 45 | 18 | 64 | cloudy | Oslo | -6 | 21 | 3 | 37 |
| Caracas | 18 | 64 | 27 | 81 | cloudy | Paris | 4 | 39 | 7 | 45 |
| Chicago | 0 | 32 | 3 | 37 | cloudy | Rio de Janeiro | 21 | 70 | 37 | 99 |
| Copenhagen | -2 | 28 | -1 | 30 | cloudy | Rome | 11 | 52 | 16 | 61 |
| Dublin | 3 | 37 | 5 | 41 | cloudy | San Francisco | 11 | 52 | 15 | 59 |
| Frankfurt | -1 | 30 | 4 | 39 | cloudy | Seoul | 1 | 34 | 10 | 50 |
| Geneva | 2 | 36 | 5 | 41 | cloudy | Singapore | 24 | 75 | 33 | 91 |
| Helsinki | -4 | 25 | -1 | 30 | clear | Stockholm | -4 | 25 | -1 | 30 |
| Hong Kong | 14 | 57 | 18 | 64 | cloudy | Sydney | 21 | 70 | 28 | 82 |
| Jakarta | 23 | 73 | 30 | 86 | cloudy | Taipei | 14 | 57 | 21 | 70 |
| Kuala Lumpur | 21 | 70 | 33 | 91 | clear | Tokyo | 3 | 37 | 1 | 34 |
| London | 2 | 36 | 7 | 45 | cloudy | Toronto | -1 | 30 | 1 | 34 |
| Los Angeles | 16 | 61 | 25 | 78 | clear | Vancouver | 7 | 45 | 10 | 50 |
| Madrid | 1 | 34 | 12 | 54 | clear | Vienne | 1 | 34 | 4 | 39 |

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